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WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 2, 1874.

President Grant on Finance.

In conversation respecting the pending financial discussion in Congress, the President remarked to-day that any finance bill which may be sent to him for approval will be most closely scrutinized. He observed that the interests of the different sections of a country so extensive must, in many respects, differ. They vary in the productions of the soil and in the pursuits which engage the labors of the inhabitants. But there is one regulating and governing influence and that is a well balanced and wise financial policy.

Inflation a Step Backward.

Inflation, he thought, would be a step backward, and there were no attendant circumstances, such as war or famine, which would seem to justify such a measure, now. Inflation, he said, would be to increase the responsibility of the government, and he could not lend his aid to that, when there appeared to him no reason for such a step; that any increase of the volume of legal tenders would be inflation and should not be contemplated. He does not think that free banking, properly controlled, especially in the matter of redemption, would be inflation. He thought that at present the currency might be unequally distributed, but it was evident that the true remedy was not to be found exclusively in legislation. The actual necessities of any locality could not be determined nor regulated by a mere theory which could only approximate the probable quantity wanted. In proportion to the increase of industry, must be the circulation of money; but it must be based on competent security, to warrant its stability in the matter of value. The whole question could be best solved by the authorization of

Free Banking,

with an assurance of redemption. The circulation would then be localized, and would better answer the demands of any particular section. Free banking would increase the facilities of trade, and the people, instead of hoarding their money, would avail themselves of these banks for the safekeeping of their ready means. Exchange would also be greatly facilitated. The President believes that a general law defining a policy and laying down the proper limitations for free banking would be sufficient. The people then, within the bounds of the law, could fix their circulation to meet their own necessities.

Advice to Congress.

It is noted all round that the President may yet embody his views in a financial message to Congress. Judging from the amount of tinkering so far attempted by that body, a little practical advice, if followed, would have a good effect for the business interests of the whole country.

State Number Thirty-eight.

The House Committee on Territories have agreed to report in favor of the admission of the Territory of New Mexico as a State in the Union.

The Sale of Arsenals.

The Senate Committee on Military Affairs, prior to taking up the bill for the sale of certain arsenals, addressed a letter to the Secretary of War asking for information on the subject. The Secretary sent his reply to the committee to-day. He states that a Board of ordnance officers is now in session in New York, and considering the whole subject of the concentration and distribution of ordnance stores, with a view to determining what additional arsenals can be dispensed with. The Secretary states that their report will be received in a very short time, and then will be at once transmitted to the committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3, 1874.

Report of Transportation Committee.

The Select Committee on Transportation confidently expect to make their report on next Wednesday. The committee will favor (though not immediately) government aid to

The Four Principal Schemes

of internal improvement which have been brought to their attention. These are, the improvement of the navigation of the Mississippi, to include the construction of the Fort St. Philip canal; the increase of the facilities for navigation on the Ohio; the enlargement of the means of inter-communication between the great lakes of the north, and the construction of interior water routes to the seaboard as embodied in the Atlantic and Great Western and the James River and Kanawha Canals, opening communication between Ohio and the Atlantic. The committee have not reached a definite conclusion respecting the last, as the committee are in some doubt as to whether it would not be a wiser policy to construct a double track railway instead, the advantage being in favor of the latter in point of time and distance. It is stated the government will probably be called upon for

One Hundred Millions

to aid in these enterprises, should they be authorized. It remains to be seen whether the committee will be able to figure such a gigantic enterprise down to so small a figure. The report is looked for with great interest by every one, as it will be sure to lead to one of the most vigorous debates we have had in Congress since the agitation of the question years ago.

Hazing at the Naval Academy.

Another case of hazing at the Naval Academy is now before the Secretary of the Navy. It appears that a party of cadet midshipmen of the third class, led by the son of an Admiral, undertook to impose upon a member of the fourth class. They assailed him and, though the latter gave the party a decided mauling, the discipline of the academy, and particularly the special orders and warnings of the Secretary of the Navy, have been violated. The Secretary now has the subject of the refractory midshipmen under consideration, and will decide at once what action shall be taken. There is every reason to believe the ringleader and his accomplices will be dismissed.

The Fredericksburg Monument.

The Select Committee on the Washington National monument will leave for Fredericksburg to-morrow morning, to examine the condition of the uncompleted monument ordered some years ago by Congress to be erected over the grave of Mary, the mother of Washington. It is proposed to finish the monument.

Western District of Arkansas.

The Committee on Expenditures of the Department of Justice is steadily pursuing the inquiry into affairs in the Western District of Arkansas, and has already elicited sufficient testimony to convict the most confirmed corruptionist. Mr. Whitney, a detective who worked up the case, has been on the stand and has clearly proven that Judge Story and other officials connived at the frauds that have been, from time to time, perpetrated. Cases were made up for the other purpose than to make costs and fees, and many of them were never brought to trial. Mr. Britton, formerly United States Marshal for the Western District, is deeply implicated. He is represented in the committee by his counsel, Judge Robinson. A case stated to-day will show to some extent

The Manner of Proceeding.

A colored man was induced by one of the court officials to sell twenty cents worth of tobacco. An hour or two afterwards a warrant was issued and the fellow was arrested. This occurred in the Indian Territory. The Deputy Marshal who made the arrest charged $20 for six hundred miles travel, and mulcted the unfortunate arrested party in the sum of $80. The large fees were divided among the Federal officials, and it was all done with the connivance of the Judge and United States Marshal.

Affidavit of a Victim.

The following affidavit was read before the committee yesterday:

"I was arrested in June, 1872, by Deputy Marshal C. D. Mesler, who advised me to go with him to a steamboat then lying at the wharf at Fort Gibson, where I would find Mr. Logan H. Roots, United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas. The charge was for introducing spirituous liquors into the Indian Territory and selling the same without license (to the best of my knowledge). I secured the services of B. J. Brown, attorney at law, whose residence is at Van Buren, Arkansas, on the trip to Fort Smith, which gave me every assurance that the matter could be arranged. Upon my arrival at Fort Smith, I did not go immediately on shore, as it was late in the evening, but in the morning. After I had breakfast I called upon Mr. Huckleberry, United States District Attorney, in company with Mr. B. J. Brown. I did not hear all the conversation between Mr. Huckleberry and Mr. Brown, but I heard enough to satisfy me my case was in the hands of competent counsel. During the morning of June 6th, 1872, in the United States Court for the Western District of Arkansas, the case of the United States vs. Frank J. Nash was called. Although I was in the court room, I heard no response. In the afternoon of the same day, just as the court had adjourned (to the best of my knowledge), it was intimated to me by a go-between that a compromise could be effected. Judge Story and Mr. Huckleberry were both present, and it was impossible for them not to have heard the conversation, as at the time we were engaged in conversation about my case, Judge Story himself saying to me that the least penalty prescribed by law was a fine of $1,000 and six months imprisonment in the penitentiary. The disgrace of going to the penitentiary was more than I could stand, when I had unwittingly violated a law. Thinking that the United States government would protect me, as one of its officers had granted me permission to introduce the liquor, I therefore was open to compromise, which was effected by my giving my note in favor of Judge William Story for $2,500 and one in favor of J. Huckleberry for $500. Both notes are dated June 20, 1872, and given at three months time. Both notes were paid at maturity, or a few days afterwards. The notes are now in the possession of J. S. Robinson. Judge Story, as I said before, was present when the offer or chance for compromise was broached. So was Mr. Huckleberry. I was arrested on Wednesday, June 5, 1872; arrived at Fort Smith on Thursday morning, about three o'clock on June 6, 1872; the case was *nolle pros'd* in the afternoon of my arrival at Fort Smith. The *nolle pros.* was not read in the court room that afternoon, but I was told by my attorney, B. J. Brown, that it was all right. The go-between in this matter was B. J. Brown, my attorney, and unless he perjures himself, he will testify that Judge Story and Mr. Huckleberry took the notes with which I bought off a criminal prosecution. By agreement, when the notes were presented for payment they were to be paid, which was done in my store at Fort Gibson. (Signed) "FRANK J. NASH."

The above affidavit is sworn to on August 19, 1873, before John B. Jones, United States Agent for the Cherokees. Mr. Jones was on the stand yesterday and identified the affidavit, and testified that Nash was a reputable man. The cancelled notes were also before the committee. They are not negotiable, but are made payable to Story and Huckleberry.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 5, 1874.

Louisville and Portland Canal.

The opposition to the passage of the Louisville and Portland Canal bill, led by Conkling in the Senate and Wheeler in the House, both of New York, is owing to the fact that a large share of the bonds are owned in the Empire State. Senators Sherman, Scott, Wright and Ferry, of the Finance Committee, are in favor of this immediate acquisition of the canal, and the opinion is expressed that this will pass.

Investigation of the Seal Fisheries.

Mr. Elliott, agent of the Treasury Department for the investigation of the seal fisheries of Alaska, will start for the seal islands on the 20th instant. During the summer Mr. Elliott will visit the Russian islands, Commandor and Behring, four hundred miles west of the American island of St. Paul, and St. George, in the heart of Behring Sea, and the latter the principal object of this visit is to obtain reliable information respecting the Russian mode of conducting seal fisheries before the department attempts to act upon the proposed increase of the maximum number of seals permitted to be killed annually on the American islands.

The Private Calendar of the House,

which contained nearly two hundred bills, after the work of Friday and Saturday now contains only about twenty-five. The majority of the bills passed were for pensions, mostly to private soldiers, and consequently they did not separately involve large amounts. The bills reported from the Committee on War Claims were generally objected to, and there is a manifest disposition not to commit the House too far to the payment of war claims.

Burler's Impeachment Bill.

General Butler reported from the Committee on Judiciary, yesterday, a bill providing that in case of the impeachment of any civil officer, except President or Vice President, such officer shall be deprived of his office while the trial is in progress. It is intimated that at least three United States Judges would be impeached at this Congress. These are Busteed, of Alabama, Durell, of Louisiana, and Story, of Arkansas. The bill was framed for the special purpose of meeting their cases.

The Kentucky Contested Election Case.

Mr. Todd, of Pennsylvania, the member of the Committee on Elections at whose request action on the case of Burns vs. Young, from the Tenth Kentucky district, was postponed, has gone home on leave of absence, and the committee take this as an indication that he will not press his motion to have the case reopened. The committee had once decided that Mr. Young was entitled to retain his seat, and this will probably now be reported to the House.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1874.

The Senate Passes a Financial Bill.

The Senate, after four months of discussion, came to a final vote on the Financial bill at a late hour this afternoon. This bill provides for the increase of the legal tenders to four hundred millions and the national bank circulation to the same amount, and includes the fifth section of the bill reported from the Finance Committee concerning the reserves of the national banks. It was the only feature retained of the original bill. The inflationists, who have thus gained a victory, owe their success entirely to the Democratic vote.

The Closing Debate,

after the inflationists had voted down every motion to adjourn, was decidedly spirited, and the advocates of a sound currency very freely ventilated their views upon the measure about to be adopted. The inflationists took no notice of these attacks. There seems to be no doubt of the passage of this bill by the House. The subject of free banking has not been touched. It remains to be seen what action the President will take. Every thing is now responsible and impeaching currency look to the President as their only hope.

The Views of the President

on the finances have already been given at length in these dispatches. The bill just passed does not come within the range of his views, and any speculation on the finances, so that it would almost seem safe to say that he will not sign the bill when it reaches him.

The Testimony of Sanborn,

before the Committee on Ways and Means this morning raises an issue of veracity between him and Secretary Richardson. The latter, it will be recollected, testified that he had no recollection of having signed the contract, that it was done in the routine manner in which papers were signed in the department, etc. Mr. Sanborn stated very explicitly to-day that the Secretary did append his signature, and with full knowledge of what he was doing, for he explained that he (Sanborn) had had the instrument prepared by his own lawyers, and submitted it to Mr. Richardson, who objected to it, and had an argument prepared to meet the views of the Treasury Department. In view of this testimony, Mr. Richardson will probably be again called before the committee.

The First Land Grant Bill

of the present Congress came up for consideration in the House to-day and was passed with seventy-seven votes in the negative. The bill was to extend the time for the construction of the Wisconsin Central Railroad until December next. The consistent opponents of land grants steadily voted against the bill. A pretty strong lobby was here a few days ago in the interest of the bill, but there was nothing in to-day's action to give any encouragement to attempt to get any other land grants through.

A Late Adjournment.

Business in the two Houses of Congress is not in the most satisfactory stage of advancement, in view of an early adjournment. But four of the twelve regular appropriation bills have been acted upon by the two Houses. None of these, however, have as yet become laws. With investigations, finances and other important matters, the session has been frittered away in idle speeches and useless delays. At the present rate of progress, the month of August will hardly witness an adjournment. This prospect is by no means satisfactory to the majority in either House. There is considerable talk of putting a stop to all outside questions, and applying themselves closely to business. Despite the night sessions of the House, the necessary business of the session is in arrears. There is no probability of the passage of any of the transportation schemes, at least this year, and many other projects will have to be abandoned for want of time, if not for want of disposition to pass them.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4, 1874.

REPORT ON THE TEXAS PACIFIC.

Isaac H. Sturgeon, of St. Louis, Commissioner to examine the Texas and Pacific Railway, has submitted his report to the Secretary of the Interior. He examined one hundred and sixty-nine miles from the boundary line between Louisiana and Texas, west, via Marshall to Dallas, seventy-four miles from Marshall northeast to Texarkana, and fifty miles from Sherman to Brookston. Mr. Sturgeon reports that the road is well built and equipped, and recommends its acceptance.

THE SENATE FINANCE BILL.

The following is the Finance bill as amended and as it now stands before the Senate:

A bill to provide for the redemption and reissue of United States notes and for free banking.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the maximum amount of United States notes is hereby fixed at four hundred million dollars.

SEC. 2. That forty-six millions, in notes for circulation, in addition to such circulation now allowed by law, shall be issued to national banking associations now organized and which may be organized hereafter, and such increased circulation shall be distributed among the several States as provided in section one of the act entitled "An act to provide for the redemption of three per centum temporary loan certificates and for an increase of national bank notes," approved July 12, 1870.

SEC. 3. That each national banking association now organized, or hereafter to be organized, shall keep and maintain, as a part of its reserve required by law, one-fourth part of the coin received by it as interest on bonds of the United States deposited as security for circulating notes or government deposits, and that hereafter only one-fourth of the reserve now prescribed by law for national banking associations shall consist of balances due to an association available for the redemption of its circulating notes from associations in cities of redemption, and upon which balances no interest shall be paid.

SEC. 4. That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize any increase of the principal of the public debt of the United States.

FREE SEEDS, CUTTINGS AND PLANTS.

The House Committee on Agriculture this morning unanimously instructed their chairman to report favoring a joint resolution providing that hereafter all seeds, cuttings and plants sent to any part of the United States by the Commissioner of Agriculture shall be transmitted through the mail free.

TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

The committee also instructed their chairman to report and recommend the passage of a bill to prevent cruelty to animals while being transported in cars and vessels.

CLOUD-COMPELLING POWERS.

The committee voted to report adversely on the petition of Professor Edward Powers, asking Congress to make an appropriation to test his theory that rain-fall can be widely produced by systematic discharges of heavy artillery.

THE CONNECTICUT ELECTION.

Ingersoll Re-Elected by an Increased Majority--Both Branches of the Legislature Democratic--A Democrat to Succeed Senator Buckingham.

HARTFORD, April 6.—Fifty-five towns give Harrison 10,272, Ingersoll 11,995 and Smith 1,445. Hartford gives Harrison 2,880, Ingersoll 4,087 and Smith 1,245.

SECOND DISPATCH.

HARTFORD, April 6.—The Connecticut election resulted in the re-election of Ingersoll, Democrat, for Governor, by an increased majority. Both Houses of the Legislature are Democratic.

THIRD DISPATCH.

HARTFORD, April 6.—At 11:45 P. M. the *Evening Post* has official returns from 151 towns. Estimating the remaining 15 towns to be heard from at last year's vote, Ingersoll will have 1,578 majority. The Senate stands 5 Republicans and 16 Democratic. In the House the Democratic majority will be about 42.

NEW HAVEN, April 7, 1 A. M.—The election has resulted in a sweeping Democratic victory. Returns received at the *Palladium* office, a few towns only wanting, give Ingersoll a majority of 1,796 over Harrison, Republican, and a majority of 1,669. Smith, Prohibition, received a little over 4,000. The Senate stands 16 Democrats to 5 Republicans, and the House is largely Democratic.

The two candidates for Governor are residents of this city, which gave Ingersoll 4,111, Harrison 3,549, and Smith, Prohibition, 295. The city elected Democratic Representatives, and this district a Democratic Senator. The election has been made by the people, and a heavy Democratic majority in the Legislature assembly renders the choice of a Democratic United States Senator an easy matter.

FOURTH DISPATCH.

HARTFORD, April 7, 2 A. M.—Returns to the *Courant* from all the towns in the State, except seven, give the following result: Ingersoll 45,956, Harrison 39,292, Smith 4,564.

FORT WAYNE.

The Methodist Conference--Reports from Educational Institutions of the Church--A Liberal Contribution.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., April 4, 1874.

The Methodist Conference assembled this morning at the usual hour. Reports of the various committees were read. Several local preachers were elected elders and deacons.

A collection was raised for building a church in Ogden City, Utah, solicited by Brother Lamb, of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Dr. Raymond addressed the Conference on behalf of the Garrett Biblical Institution, of Wooster, Ill. This institution, he said, was now preparing one hundred and fifty young men for the ministry.

Dr. Andrews, President of the Indiana Asbury University, made a few remarks in reference to the institution. He said the number of students was between 450 and 500, the Collegiate Course being the only one entering the ministry, about forty already licentiates.

On the report of the Ft. Wayne Methodist College, a long debate was made in regard to the debt of the institution. $10,000 was asked to liquidate the debt and repair the building. A subscription of $10,000 was raised, seven thousand being subscribed by the ministers alone.

ASHTABULA, OHIO.

Pennsylvania Company Reaching for a New Feeder---Prospects for the Mahoning Valley.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

ASHTABULA, O., April 2, 1874.

It is said that the Pennsylvania Company have closed an arrangement with Rhodes & Co., of Cleveland, the great coal and ore dealers of the lakes, by which a branch of their business will be established at Ashtabula harbor. Extensive dock improvements have been made by the railroad company to meet the demands of trade, and the Mahoning valley will, no doubtless, soon experience a great revival of business as a result of this arrangement.

NEWCASTLE, IND.

Movement Towards the Formation of a New People's Party.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

NEWCASTLE, IND., April 4, 1874.

A meeting was held to-day to form a new party. Resolutions favoring reform were adopted, and the meeting inaugurated a movement looking toward the organization of a People's party. Delegates were selected, representing the different townships in Henry county, to meet on the first Saturday in August, to nominate a ticket for next fall's election. Speeches were made by several present. Little or no enthusiasm was manifested.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Is It a Murder?

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

VIA WASHINGTON, O., } VIA MANSFIELD, April 6, 1874. }

One week ago to-day J. Gassman, a wealthy farmer, started to Sandusky, Ohio, to pay off some debts, and has not yet reached his destination, nor been heard from. Considerable money on him, it is feared that some foul play has been committed. His family and friends are in search of him, and great excitement prevails.

An Old Man Murdered in Utah.

CORBINE, UTAH, April 6.—J. Barnstein, an old and respected citizen here, was found murdered in his dwelling this morning. His family were all absent, visiting in the West. It appears that the old man went home about eleven o'clock P. M., and started to go into his bedroom to retire, when a blow from an axe in the hands of the assassin concealed behind the door, felled him to the floor. A slight scuffle seems to have followed, but the murderer made sure work, burying the axe deep in Barnstein's head. Deceased was found in the dining room adjoining the bed room, his pocket-book by his side empty, and his watch gone, showing that robbery was the motive.

Opening of Court at Indiana, Pa.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

INDIANA, PA., April 6, 1874.

The courts met to-day, Judge Logan on the bench, with associates Dills and Irwin. The civil list is large. The case of the Commonwealth *vs.* Lizzie Roberts, charged with infanticide, was called. A motion made by White and Thompson, attorneys for the defendant, to quash the array of Grand and Traverse jurors, is being argued. The Judge's charge to constables was very pointed and strong; especially as to returning violators of the Liquor laws.

The Northern Pacific Settles with Jay Cooke's Estate.

PHILADELPHIA, April 6.—A settlement was completed to-day between the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the estate of Jay Cooke & Co., whereby the advances made by the latter to the former are discharged by the acceptance of the company's first mortgage bonds and other securities. This settlement leaves the railroad company with only a nominal floating debt to be provided for.

XLIII. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1874.

SENATE.

MR. JOHNSTON introduced a bill giving jurisdiction to the Court of Claims to hear the claim of G. W. Curtis Lee, son of the late General Lee, to the Arlington estate. A petition accompanying the bill recognizes the sacred use to which the property has been put, but thinks the petitioner should be compensated.

MR. BOGY presented a resolution from the Missouri Legislature favoring the passage of the House bill for the improvement of the mouth of the Mississippi river. Referred.

The bill to provide for the funding of bonds of the Louisville and Portland Canal Company was taken up, the pending question being to refer to the Committee on Judiciary. Messrs. THURMAN and MCCREERY opposed such reference, and favored the committal of the subject to the Committee on Finance, which was adopted after some discussion.

MR. WEST introduced a bill amendatory of the act to limit the liability of ship owners. Referred to the Committee on Commerce. The bill provides that the non-liability clause of the act of March 30, 1851, shall apply to all vessels, steamboats and other craft engaged in inland navigation.

The morning hour having expired, the Senate resumed consideration of the bill to provide for the redemption and reissue of United States notes, and for free banking. The question pending was the motion of Mr. Merrimon to strike out the entire bill, with the exception of the first and second sections. As amended, these sections fix the amount of United States notes at four hundred millions, and provide for the issue of forty-six millions of additional national bank circulation.

Mr. SHERMAN said the effect of the motion would be to strike out the fifth and sixth sections of the bill as reported by the committee, and they had been unanimously agreed upon by the committee. To strike out the fifth and sixth sections would be by inference to authorize an increase of the public debt.

Mr. SCOTT moved as an amendment to the motion to strike out the first section of the bill, following: "And on all national banking currency, the following named associations now organized shall keep and maintain as part of its reserve required by law one-fourth part of the coin received by it as interest on bonds of the United States deposited as security for circulating notes or government deposits, and that hereafter only one-fourth of the reserve now prescribed by law for national banking associations shall consist of balances due to an association, available for the redemption of its circulating notes, from associations in cities of redemption, and upon which balances no interest shall be paid."

The amendment was accepted by Mr. MERRIMON.

Mr. CONKLING moved an additional section, as follows: That nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize an increase of the principal of the public debt of the United States.

Mr. MORTON hoped this section would not be adopted. He believed that there would be necessary to use additional greenbacks to carry on the government, as was the case during the last year, and he did not tender reserve to meet the current expenses of the government.

Mr. SHERMAN argued in favor of the adoption of the section. The action of the Secretary in regard to the sinking fund was limited to as necessary to meet the public necessities. Mr. Sherman said he did not approve that action, and had declared, over and over again, that he set on the part of the Secretary was an unlawful one.

The amendment of Mr. CONKLING was rejected—yeas 24, nays 27, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Bayard, Chandler, Conkling, Cragin, Davis, Fenton, Frelinghuysen, Hamilton, Maryland; Hamilton, Texas; Hamlin, Howe, Kelly, Morrill, Vermont; Sargent, Saulsbury, Schurz, Scott, Sherman, Stewart, Thurman, and Wadleigh—24.

NAYS—Messrs. Bogy, Boreman, Cameron, Carpenter, Clayton, Dorsey, Ferry, of Michigan; Goldthwaite, Gordon, Harvey, Hitchcock, Ingalls, Johnston, Lewis, Logan, McCreery, Merrimon, Morton, Norwood, Oglesby, Patterson, Pease, Ramsey, Robertson, Tipton, West, and Windom—28.

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The amendment of Mr. CONKLING was rejected—yeas 24, nays 27, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Anthony, Bayard, Chandler, Conkling, Cragin, Davis, Fenton, Frelinghuysen, Hamilton, Maryland; Hamilton, Texas; Hamlin, Howe, Kelly, Morrill, Vermont; Sargent, Saulsbury, Schurz, Scott, Sherman, Stewart, Thurman, and Wadleigh—24.

NAYS—Messrs. Bogy, Boreman, Cameron, Carpenter, Clayton, Dorsey, Ferry, of Michigan; Goldthwaite, Gordon, Harvey, Hitchcock, Ingalls, Johnston, Lewis, Logan, McCreery, Merrimon, Morton, Oglesby, Patterson, Pease, Ramsey, Robertson, Spencer, Tipton, West, and Windom—28.

NAYS—Messrs. Anthony, Bayard, Chandler, Conkling, Cragin, Davis, Fenton, Frelinghuysen, Hager, Hamilton, Maryland; Hamilton, Texas; Hamlin, Howe, Kelly, Morrill, Vermont; Sargent, Saulsbury, Schurz, Scott, Sherman, Stewart, Thurman, and Wadleigh—24.

The bill having been considered in Committee of the Whole, was reported to the Senate, the question being, Will the Senate agree to the amendments agreed upon by the Committee of the Whole?

MR. SHERMAN then offered as a substitute for the bill the following, which was agreed to in the Whole, the bill originally reported by the Finance Committee, with certain modifications, providing for the free banking system, to January 1st, 1875, and providing for the retirement of fifty millions of national bank circulation as national bank currency is issued. Mr. Sherman again spoke of the importance of having the bill pass, as a step to the ultimate specie resumption, and appealed to the Senate to have such a measure to-day.

Mr. HOWE moved that the Senate proceed to Executive business. Rejected—yeas 25, nays 30.

The question was then taken on the substitute of Mr. Sherman, and it was rejected—yeas 25, nays 30.

MR. SCHURZ offered the following as a substitute for the bill agreed upon in Committee of the Whole: That the Secretary of the Treasury is hereby directed, in putting in circulation the additional amount of $400,000,000 of United States notes, to take such measures as will not fail to prevent any additional issues of such notes to national banking associations, or to speculators and stock gamblers of the country; and also from remaining in the Eastern States, but he shall cause the additional issue of legal tender currency to be fairly distributed among the people of the West and South, and legal tender currency to be fairly distributed among any community in the West or South desire to establish a national bank. The Secretary of the Treasury will furnish them an ample supply of United States bonds on which they may obtain their national bank currency; and the Secretary of the Treasury is further directed to call in the circulation of the notes of each national banking association that shall be in further default of making the deposits required by law. The Secretary of the Treasury will furnish the people of the West and South, and every community in the West or South desire to establish a national bank, the branch of their business will be established at Ashtabula harbor. Extensive dock improvements have been made by the railroad company to meet the demands of trade, and the Mahoning valley will, no doubtless, soon experience a great revival of business as a result of this arrangement.

NEWCASTLE, IND.

Movement Towards the Formation of a New People's Party.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

NEWCASTLE, IND., April 4, 1874.

A meeting was held to-day to form a new party. Resolutions favoring reform were adopted, and the meeting inaugurated a movement looking toward the organization of a People's party. Delegates were selected, representing the different townships in Henry county, to meet on the first Saturday in August, to nominate a ticket for next fall's election. Speeches were made by several present. Little or no enthusiasm was manifested.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Is It a Murder?

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

VIA WASHINGTON, O., } VIA MANSFIELD, April 6, 1874. }

One week ago to-day J. Gassman, a wealthy farmer, started to Sandusky, Ohio, to pay off some debts, and has not yet reached his destination, nor been heard from. Considerable money on him, it is feared that some foul play has been committed. His family and friends are in search of him, and great excitement prevails.

An Old Man Murdered in Utah.

CORBINE, UTAH, April 6.—J. Barnstein, an old and respected citizen here, was found murdered in his dwelling this morning. His family were all absent, visiting in the West. It appears that the old man went home about eleven o'clock P. M., and started to go into his bedroom to retire, when a blow from an axe in the hands of the assassin concealed behind the door, felled him to the floor. A slight scuffle seems to have followed, but the murderer made sure work, burying the axe deep in Barnstein's head. Deceased was found in the dining room adjoining the bed room, his pocket-book by his side empty, and his watch gone, showing that robbery was the motive.

Opening of Court at Indiana, Pa.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

INDIANA, PA., April 6, 1874.

The courts met to-day, Judge Logan on the bench, with associates Dills and Irwin. The civil list is large. The case of the Commonwealth *vs.* Lizzie Roberts, charged with infanticide, was called. A motion made by White and Thompson, attorneys for the defendant, to quash the array of Grand and Traverse jurors, is being argued. The Judge's charge to constables was very pointed and strong; especially as to returning violators of the Liquor laws.

The Northern Pacific Settles with Jay Cooke's Estate.

PHILADELPHIA, April 6.—A settlement was completed to-day between the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and the estate of Jay Cooke & Co., whereby the advances made by the latter to the former are discharged by the acceptance of the company's first mortgage bonds and other securities. This settlement leaves the railroad company with only a nominal floating debt to be provided for.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

The Centennial First, Last and All the Time --The New City Buildings--The Academy of Fine Arts and the Academy of Natural Sciences--Filthy Streets--The Temperance Movement--Sunday Liquor Selling--Lecture Courses--Friends' Meeting Houses Built in Modern Style--Sensational Preachers, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PHILADELPHIA, April 3, 1874.

Now that it is decided beyond a doubt that Philadelphia is to be the seat of our Centennial Celebration, the Quaker City is more than ever an object of interest to the American people; and from every State in the Union eager and curious eyes are turned toward us, waiting for some decisive action from our city and our State. It is strange that there are American citizens so lost to every emotion of patriotism, that they cannot just once lay aside all sectional pride, and join with heart and hand in a celebration which, if successful, will add glory and honor to the whole country; but it is every day more and more evident that if the American Exposition of 1876 is to be a success, Philadelphia and Pennsylvania must bear the lion's share of the burden. And yet if the people of other States understood that we are determined to go ahead, with their help if we can, without it if we must, our energy will give them confidence, and we will eventually receive the aid and sympathy that ought to have been freely given us at first.

In the meantime, there seems to be an unusual excitement among the citizens of our phlegmatic city. Business has not yet recovered from the effects of the panic, and the streets are as quiet and orderly as ever; yet even the transient visitor cannot but feel that there is something going on, and indeed Philadelphia does seem, in many ways, to be waking up from a long sleep. The public buildings at the junction of Broad and Market streets do not as yet make very much show above the ground, but they are progressing slowly and surely, and when they are finished our citizens may well be proud of them. Fairmount Park, as taken up so as to be unfinished business to-morrow. This was agreed to, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. CROSSLAND, from the Committee on Elections, made a report in the Kentucky contested election case of Burns *vs.* Young, the sitting member, is entitled to his seat.

Mr. BUTLER, of Massachusetts, moved that the bill to establish a Department of Agriculture, pending trial be made a special order for Tuesday next. Agreed to.

Under a suspension of the rules Mr. SPEER offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire into the expediency of levying a capitation tax on immigrants at New York.

Mr. MAYNARD, Chairman of the Committee on Banking and Currency, gave notice that he would report the pending question on the currency bill at the close of the discussion to-morrow.

The House adjourned.

Distribution of the Foreign Trade.

[From the Philadelphia North American.]

The Chamber of Commerce of the city of New York has published in pamphlet form in its annual report a series of tables showing the foreign commerce of that port as compared with the foreign commerce of all the other ports of the republic. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1873, the comparison stands thus: Imports, New York, $426,321,427; other ports, $237,295,720. Reexports, New York, $18,972,099; other ports, $9,177,412. Consumed and on hand, New York, $407,349,328; other ports, $228,118,308. Exports of other merchandise only—gold in good condition. This is not so satisfactory as it might be, but we are grateful for any improvement over the ills of the past, and no doubt a Pittsburgher traversing our streets would think them a model of cleanliness. Perhaps such a supposition is unjust to our sister city, but the native Philadelphian always sees Pittsburgh in his mind's eye, enveloped in a cloud of smoke and coal dust.

The temperance movement is not as yet causing much excitement here, but the liquor sellers, in self-defense, agreed to close their saloons on Sundays; some of them actually do so, but comparatively few, and many more have a very convenient back door to their bar-rooms, and arrests for drunkenness on the Sabbath are as numerous as heretofore. A Temperance Union has been formed in the Thirteenth ward, and it is proposed to form similar unions in every ward in the city, and then unite them all under jurisdiction of the "Philadelphia Temperance Union;" the object of the association being the enforcement of the existing liquor laws, and the securing of further legislation for the suppression of the liquor traffic. In addition to this, the women are holding prayer meetings in several of the

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1874.

THE lower branch of Congress has adopted the revision of the statutes of the United States, as consolidated by the Congressional committee appointed for that purpose, and the action of the Senate is now awaited thereon.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has just rendered a decision to the effect that an insurance against accident while traveling by public or private conveyance, does not cover an accident which happens while the insured is traveling on foot.

ENGLAND is having her old-time trouble with the labor question, while the steady growth of our population and the consequent increased development of the country's resources indicate an approaching complete independence of outside markets of supply.

A "HEATHEN CHINEE" named WONG CHIN FOO, was admitted to citizenship in the Circuit Court of Grand Rapids, Michigan, last Saturday. He claims to be the first of his nationality that has renounced allegiance to the Chinese empire. He should be re-christened "Hail Columbia!"

UNLESS Congress shall presently begin to settle down to work a good deal more earnestly than it has yet done, the passage of a bill fixing the number of days in each month at forty or fifty, and lengthening the year as the public necessities may seem to require, is likely to become necessary.

NEW YORK papers state that business is fully resumed by all the lines on the Hudson river, and that the season has opened prosperously. It is expected to be an extremely busy one with transportation men, through an anticipated liberal requirement of breadstuffs on the other side of the Atlantic.

THE DAWES men in the Massachusetts Legislature seem to be gradually weakening. Judge HOAR, too, must be considered out of the fight, as any compromise between his friends and those of Mr. DAWES is said to be impossible. And still the question is—How is the name of the coming man spelt?

A SATISFACTORY settlement of the complications between the SPRAGUES and their Providence creditors has been made. The business of the firm will therefore be continued, the mills will go along, and the thousands of operatives dependent on the company for the means of living will not be thrown out of employment.

PRACTICAL statesmanship: The extension of the postal money-order system to the capital town of each county in every State of the Union, provided such office shall be self-sustaining, is proposed. A little more of this sensible kind of legislation, sandwiched between the rhetorical frolics of Congress, would do no harm.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has just ruled, in a case involving the point, that where money is paid on a raised check by mistake, neither party being in fault, it may be recovered back as paid without consideration, and that a verbal reply that a check is good, given for the information of the party about to receive it, extends only to matters of which the bank has knowledge, or is presumed to have by law.

IT IS now intimated that there is an expectation, if not a tacit understanding, that no choice will be made by the Massachusetts Legislature, and that that body will adjourn, leaving vacant the unexpired term of Senator SUMNER. As the vacancy occurred while the Legislature was in session, the Governor cannot appoint a successor, but it would have been his duty to do in the event of the resignation of SUMNER during the vacation of the Legislature.

THE Missouri outlaws have addressed an insolent letter to the Governor of that State, deriding and defying himself, scouting his power, ridiculing his message to the Legislature concerning them, and mockingly inviting him, when he dispatches a posse *to arrest them, to "send a coffin for every one"* of the officers. It is not unlikely that the Governor may be so far aroused by this insolent defiance of a reputation to remonstrate with the cut-throats concerning their impolite behavior.

WE SEE it stated that R. M. T. HUNTER, an ex-rebel General and former United States Senator from Virginia, is to be a candidate for Congress from one of the districts in that State. He is the distinguished author of the modest four hundred million dollar claim against the government, on the part of the South, for compensation for the loss of its slaves. Should he conduct the canvass on this issue, he will, no doubt, be triumphantly elected by his Conservative constituents.

AN IMPORTANT patent decision has just been made in the United States Circuit Court for the Eastern district of this State. The suit was for an alleged infringement of the BABCOCK fire extinguisher patent. The case was decided in favor of the defendants, the opinion of the court affirming the invalidity of the plaintiff's patent and dismissing their bill. A large number of suits of similar character have been held in abeyance in different parts of the country, abiding the result of this case.

THE indications are that the HOWARD Court of Inquiry will decide that the General is not personally responsible for the wrongful acts of a few of his subordinates who made default, and that, personally, he is free from blame. This is what right-minded men have expected from the first. To accuse him of dishonesty on account of their bad conduct would be a species of cowardly ingratitude and any code of ethics with which we are acquainted, except that which appears to govern FERNANDO WOOD and the malignants of the opposition press.

ALL United States license taxes expire on the last day of April. The penalty imposed by law for the failure to make return or application for the special tax stamp before commencing or continuing business, is fifty per cent. of the amount of the license or special tax. This is simply for failure to make the application in time. There are other penalties for doing business without having actually paid the tax, and for not posting up the tax stamp conspicuously in the place of business. This is a matter of considerable importance to many of our citizens, and they would do well to bear it in mind.

FERNANDO WOOD, it is reported, has in course of preparation a speech in which he proposes to show that "the merchants of this country, and especially of New York city, have been shamefully treated at all times by the government, by the laws of Congress, regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury, and by the men who executed the laws and regulations." Mr. WOOD probably believes that the statute of limitations should be made to apply to cases of fraudulent importations, as well as in those of prosecution for alleged forgery, he having himself experienced the benefits of the statute as respects the latter indictment.

ACCORDING to the minority report of the Liquor Law Joint Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature, which has just been rendered to that body, that State, under the existing Prohibitory law, has more liquor shops open than any other New England State in proportion to her population, and pays the Federal government thirty per cent. more for taxes on liquor than all the other New England States together. These facts are not a little significant, and deserve the thoughtful consideration of sincere friends of temperance everywhere throughout the country, in their search for rational and practicable methods of dealing with the evil of drunkenness.

THE election in Connecticut resulted in the success of the Democratic ticket, State and Legislative; that is to say, the Democracy retained possession of that which they already controlled. At the election of last year the Democrats polled 46,074 votes, the Republicans 39,245, and the Prohibition party 2,541; giving Governor INGERSOLL a plurality of 6,829, and a clear majority of 3,288. This year the Prohibition ticket received nearly five thousand votes, which were mostly drawn from the Republican side, while the so-called "Liberal" element supported the Democratic ticket in its entirety. Want of harmony among the Republican leaders, together with the old jealousy of General HAWLEY, and of the large class of Republicans which he represents, prevented anything like enthusiasm on the Republican side, while the Democracy exerted themselves to the utmost. Beyond the fact that it secures to the latter a United States Senator in place of Senator BUCKINGHAM, the result possesses no special political significance. No great national issues were involved, and no rebuke to Republican principles can possibly be inferred from the outcome of the contest.

UNPUNISHED CRIMES.

MRS. BRAUENLEIN, of this city, was a poor old woman, almost if not quite a pauper, without influential relatives or social influence of any kind, but the circumstances of her terrible death rendered her case interesting to every man, woman and child in the county of Allegheny. And the interest attached to the atrocity has been increased by the subsequent history of the case, by the failure thus far of all attempts to ascertain the perpetrator of the crime. It needs not be said that the subject is much talked about, both in the city and in the surrounding country, and that wherever it is discussed, it suggests grave thoughts as to the efficiency of our arrangements for the security of human life. Standing alone, as a single example of a monstrous crime committed with impunity, where neither the crime nor the impunity seemed possible, the case would have deserved particular attention. But, as one of our local German contemporaries remarked a day or two ago, the BRAUENLEIN murder is the third or fourth offense of the sort perpetrated in this county within a period of two years or little more, of which the perpetrators have either remained undiscovered or have not been convicted.

MRS. BRAUENLEIN lived in a room directly over a room occupied by the SCHUETTLER family. When one morning she was found murdered, there were many signs in the room that the crime had not been committed without resistance on the part of the old woman. The stove had been overturned and other articles were lying topsy-turvy. The box and cupboard of the deceased had been thoroughly ransacked for whatever things of value they might contain. It would appear impossible that the family living in the room underneath the place of the murder should not have heard some wholly unusual noises, that is, if they were not all either stone deaf or stupefied with chloroform. They were found to have in their possession various small pieces of "portable property," which were fully identified as having belonged to the murdered woman. Still no *entirely satisfactory* evidences of *guilt* were produced against the SCHUETTLERS, and all three members of the family placed upon trial were acquitted.

In the second case alluded to, that of LIZZIE MESS, the murder was committed in broad daylight at Port Perry, and nobody has yet been punished.

The third case referred to, the murder of policeman STACK, in one of the most frequented streets of the city and actually in the presence of competent witnesses, remains until this day unpunished. As our contemporary points out, clever lawyers employing dexterously the stratagems of their profession, rescued the criminal in this last case, while in both the former instances the escape of the culprits might probably be fairly ascribed to the want of knowledge and efficiency on the part of the functionaries to whom pertained the duty of taking formal cognizance of the criminal fact alleged and of determining the first result or import of the attending circumstances. Through the misdirected suspicions of the detectives, two innocent persons narrowly escaped punishment for the LIZZIE MESS atrocity, as many will recollect, and equally well known to the public is the fact that in the BRAUENLEIN case, indications the most compromising were straightway rendered worthless by the excessive zeal of a police official. To one contemporary these cases seem to form an exhibit the reverse of creditable to the *machinery of justice in this county*, showing as they do that the most shocking and ghastly murders may here be committed with absolute impunity.

The chief blame, it should seem, is laid by the people upon the police who, our contemporary thinks, are all the more unequal to the duty of guarding the public safety, as they are required to give attention to matters having little to do with the preservation of order (?). Reproach also attaches to the detectives, who in the skill appropriate to their duties, of course fall far behind the same class in such cities as NEW YORK and Chicago. True, they lack the experience which makes perfect, since murder and homicide are not here the commonplace affairs they are in those cities. By their clumsiness, however, they are making provision for improving exercise in the future, so that their improvement may be anticipated with some confidence.

Our contemporary finds most fault with the awkward, bungling manner in which the investigations of the Coroners' inquests are conducted. It is affirmed to be the particular distinction of this county that the office of Coroner is for the most part filled by an utterly incompetent person, to whom the post is assigned as a portion of the spoils of political victory. The only right man to occupy the position would be a thoroughly trained criminalist. A case of drowning or an accident on a railway, says our contemporary, any layman may inquire into, but to ascertain the intimate circumstances of a crime and the traces or waymarks which lead to the discovery of the perpetrator, requires a man of acute discernment, familiarly conversant also with criminal cases. A Coroner thus qualified can often give the most valuable, indeed indispensable hints to the detectives who should be closely associated with him in his duties. At present, as a result of the practice in vogue in many parts of this country, the only clue to the detection of the criminal is, in many cases missed, or at any rate never falls into the proper hands, simply because the first agent of the law summoned to the scene happens to be an ignorant or stupid or utterly untrained functionary, able neither to perceive, nor comprehend when perceived, indications which, fully observed and utilized, would conduct the officers of justice infallibly to the perpetrator of the deed. Be all this as it may, the subject is certainly well worthy of serious reflection, as no community can afford to let many murderers escape the penalty due to their crimes.

MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

Paper, types and ink could hardly have been put to any more idle use for some time now than in denouncing the financial policy upon which a majority of our sentient legislators had already determined to stake their reputation and fortunes as public men. It is no calumny and scarcely an impoliteness to say that in the great commercial centers and in the most cultivated society of the country a rather low estimate is placed upon the intelligence of the average Congressman. It would, however, be grossly unfair to the average Congressman to suppose that at the present time he is either unaware of or incapable of comprehending the objections, economical, social and political, to which the policy of inflation is open. A candid man is alternately surprised and indignant at the imputation of ignorance or stupidity so energetically flung at our Washington legislators by irate citizens when talking about their recent action. This imputation, whether of want of knowledge or want of discernment, is, we are confident, wholly or, at least for the most part, quite groundless. During many weeks, during many months past, one may say, the subject of our financial condition has been the burden of discussion not only in the newspapers and in the magazines and other periodicals, but in counting-rooms, on 'Change and in society. The best intellect and culture of the nation have been devoted to the elucidation of the subject. While of course much rubbish has been written and talked about it, sound views also, the views which rest upon well established principles of economical science and upon the experience of the civilized world, have been set forth in countless forms, with admirable clearness and force. In the discussion the journalists of the country have, upon the whole, done themselves splendid justice, evincing an acquaintance with the subject and a skill in popularizing its principles, for which they did not beforehand commonly receive credit. In both Houses of Congress also, especially in the Senate, the subject has been admirably handled by the advocates of a safe, honest and intelligent financial policy, the objections to an opposite policy having been exhibited with a lucidity of thought and with a simplicity of diction which divested listeners of all excuse for wrong action on the ground of either ignorance of the truth or dullness of apprehension.

In the midst of so much light, in the very focus of luminous rays converging from all quarters, the most ill-informed or the least intellectually gifted Congressman must be supposed to have possessed a reasonably clear and definite apprehension, if not entirely satisfactory comprehension of the problem to be solved.

Though we may regret that they did not adopt the policy which is sanctioned by the highest financial authority and by the clear voice of history, we do not perceive any advantage or wisdom in raising the cry that "Poland is no more!" or that "our national credit already lies wallowing in the degradation which has fallen upon Turkey and Spain." Such cries are of a nature to hasten the catastrophe they denounce, if such a catastrophe were possible under the conditions of a country so full of young life, energy and recuperative force as the United States. The worst positively certain consequence of the policy adopted is the indefinite postponement of the time of our restoration to the financial basis essential to solid and permanent economical prosperity. While we live and move on a different foundation, we are, of course, continually exposed to financial disaster, and the longer we remain thus exposed, the more overwhelming and terrible the disaster, when it comes, is likely to be. Such disaster, the worst possible consequence of the policy just adopted, is, however, contingent on conditions that may never arise, that may be averted by the wisdom, foresight and caution of our men of business. One may at least hope for a while, that, duly impressed with the lessons of the past, they will recognize the wisdom and safety of making haste slowly. Upon such hope the damper is, that speculation easily becomes epidemic, a frenzy which rages at delay, a fever burning its victims into forgetfulness of whatever is behind and into contempt for all remote consequences.

At any rate, whatever is to be the final issue or upshot of the step, it has been deliberately taken by the people. Only, the people of New England can *en masse* declare that they set their faces firmly against inflation. At least half of the people of New York, two-thirds of the people of Pennsylvania, still larger proportions of the people of the great West and of the needy South, demanded the expansion. Though a political as well as an economical question, neither of the parties of the country can ever reproach the other with its agency in adopting the momentous measure. Senators MORTON and LOGAN in their persistent advocacy of inflation doubtless derived not a little of their inspiration from the hope that their party would profit by the revival of prosperity, the good times, which the policy is expected to restore. To face the masses of the glorious West at an election when suffering the pangs of empty pockets, with "no money to move the crops," Senators shuddered at the thought. And no wonder! Who can blame them. Politics is politics. Of course, our legislators believe that, thanks to the happy circumstances of the country, it will all be well in the end, and perhaps the best all can do is to indulge in the same hope, if only they do not permit hope, with its flattering tale, to blind them to the necessity of wisdom and effort on their part to bring good out of seeming evil.

NOMINATING CONVENTIONS.

Some of the candidates for nomination on the Republican ticket, at the ensuing fall election, are clamoring for the holding of early conventions, totally forgetful of everything but their own personal interests in the matter. As, however, the party is interested in it much more largely than any individual can be, we trust that, for the party's sake, there will be no undue haste in fixing the date of the nominating conventions.

There are very many considerations that press, just now, for caution, prudence and care. Go slow, is exceptionally good advice at the present moment. In the first place, the election does not take place until November, and a campaign extending from June to November is something terrifying. There is not the slightest necessity for nominations earlier than August. In fact, as and place, the Legislative Apportionment bill has not yet been licked into shape, in either House, and is not likely to become a law before the middle of May, from present appearances; and until it *does* pass, it will be impossible to determine what conventions it may be necessary to hold under it. The County Committee, therefore, cannot meet to fix on the issuing of a call, until after that bill has passed, for until then, nothing will be known about the construction of the Senatorial and Representative districts.

It is very natural for candidates to wish for a short nominating campaign, but it is just as natural that the party, as a whole, should wish for a short election campaign; and the interests of the party should predominate in all such cases. There are other reasons, which will readily suggest themselves, and do not need to be discussed; but we think it will occur to every one that, after last year's commercial panic, the wisest thing would be to let the people alone, throughout the spring and summer, to attend to the re-establishment of business, and not bother them with election affairs until it becomes absolutely necessary.

AN ANALYSIS of the final vote in the United States Senate on the currency question is not uninteresting at this time. The measure was adopted by a vote of twenty-nine to twenty-four. There were also seven pairs, so that the vote would have stood thirty-six to thirty-one, had these been present. Five Senators were absent unpaired, of whom three would have voted in the affirmative, so that the Senate stands thirty-nine to thirty-three, two seats being vacant. There are, strictly speaking, seventy-two Republicans, six Democrats, and one Liberal; while in the minority there were fifteen Republicans, six Democrats and three Liberals. The pairs were four between Republicans and three between Democrats. The Atlantic States north of the Potomac, twenty votes, had but two Senators favorable to expansion. One was paired, and the other was absent. Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia gave two for and four against. The Southern States, excluding Missouri and West Virginia, which gave thirteen votes, had two favorable absent and three paired, leaving six for the negative. The remaining majority votes were from the West and Northwest; only Senators HOWE and CHANDLER voting in the negative. The six Pacific coast votes were cast, one for inflation and five against. Sectionally considered, then, the South and West controlled only nine Senators voting nay.

THIS is the cable age. A new Atlantic cable is soon to be laid from some point on the coast of Ireland to a point on the coast of New England, via Newfoundland; and, in addition to this, a number of capitalists, in this country and in Europe, are said to be ready to put down another Atlantic cable direct from France to the United States, and from the Pacific coast of the United States to Asia, without subsidy of any kind, and that they only await legal authority from Congress to commence operations. By the way, what has become of the wonderful claim in regard to ocean telegraphy, some time ago set up by a former Washington correspondent, by one of whose inventions the message from an ocean cable was to be printed, by the other photographed in a new characetry, and, by either of them, the capacity of cable telegraphing to be increased from fifteen words to fifty or sixty words a minute?

THE Ways and Means Committee of Congress are reported to be almost unanimously of the opinion that the government cannot collect its revenues because of the frauds without offering some inducement to officers in the shape of rewards, in order that a watchful eye may be kept upon the interests of the government. This is in accordance with the view we have all along taken of the matter. There are dishonest merchants and importers as well as honest and honorable ones, and the latter need protection from the former. There have been, no doubt, cases of individual hardship, and JAYNE's and SANBORN's methods have, perhaps, not always been commendable, but it does not therefore follow that the system should be abolished. It must be for the interest of somebody to go to the bottom of these frauds. Collusion between importers and custom house officials, to say the least, is not improbable, making the honest importer and government both suffer.

SINCE the manufacture of steel rails was commenced, experiments have been repeatedly made for the purpose of rolling the flange and neck of the rail of iron, and the head of steel. The trouble has been that the steel, which requires less heat than the iron, would scorch in rolling, but an experiment at the Rensselaer works at Troy, New York, a few days ago, appears to have entirely overcome this. The *Times*, of that city, states that the success of the rolling depends greatly upon the skill of the heater, and the judicious use of the "damper." The trial was witnessed by a number of leading ironmasters, and the new rail was cut into small pieces and sent to different manufacturers about the country. The wear on a rail comes on the head alone, and if that is of steel, it answers just as well as a rail made entirely of steel. By this method the cost of a rail will also, it is claimed, be materially reduced.

WE HAVE repeatedly expressed our belief that the main causes of the poverty of the people of Virginia were those of her own creating. The Richmond *Dispatch*, in an unwonted vein of candor, now indorses this opinion, asserting that the assets of that State immensely exceed its liabilities, and adding: "The money spent in whisky would pay the entire public debt in three or four years." A recent number of the *Whig*, also, takes substantially the same view. This being the case, it is respectfully suggested that the high-toned chivalry of the Old Dominion would find far better account in subduing their vicious appetites and propensities, and in conquering the lower with the higher self, than in railing against the "Radicals," cursing the negroes, or whining at the doors of Congress for favors which it has no right to grant.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Agassiz Memorial Fund has reached nearly $100,000.

Do successors succeed? is the conundrum in Massachusetts.

The question of color is beginning to be agitated in Canadian politics.

The *Post* believes that there are he dolls. We are glad that she thinks so.

Direct steamship traffic has begun between Liverpool and Galveston.

During the month of March the losses by fire in New England amounted to $1,638,880.

A member of the Farragut family died last week. It was a five thousand dollar trotter.

The mortuary record for Philadelphia, for 1873, shows a decrease of 3,763, or 19.82 per cent. from 1872.

The spring thus far has been favorable to farmers and railroad corporations. Heavy freshets have been scarce.

Europeans are greatly exercised over the continued default of interest on American railway and State bonds.

Pew rents are going up, and pork is coming down, and Chicago wants to know what is to become of itself.

There is prosperity in New England. Nearly all the mills in that section are running to their fullest capacity.

All but a few noisy fellows who were concerned in the recent strike at Susquehanna have gone to work again.

Stanley has in press in London a work entitled "Coomassie and Magdala, the Story of Two British Campaigns."

North Carolina claims to be the only State in the Union which produces every article enumerated in the census of 1870.

Tweed waxed fat on wickedness, and now the old robber's friends bring up his obesity as a reason for lightening his sentence.

The skull of the Revolutionary orator, James Otis, has been found imbedded in the root of a tree, which had gradually grown around it.

Dear me! It is reported that the lifetime personal friendship existing between Toombs and Stephens, of Georgia, has been interrupted.

A reaction seems to have set in all over the country in favor of carrying out the acts of Congress, and making the Centennial exhibition international.

The past winter in Texas and Kansas was a very mild one, and the drovers have come through it, as a rule, with their live stock safe and in good condition.

Lake navigation is opening, and the large trade depression upon that will now revive and have a happy effect upon the markets and laboring classes.

Nine thousand five hundred and fifty-seven persons died in Chicago during the past year. This is quite a decrease in the percentage over the year before.

A new church for Beecher has been definitely decided on. It is to cost, with the land, four hundred thousand dollars, and to seat six thousand people.

The war made sad havoc with France. Since 1866, when the population was over thirty-eight millions, there has been a diminution of nearly two millions.

The heartless law of Indiana, which refuses to give colored children the benefits of the public schools in that State, has been judicially declared null and void.

A dear whistle. The net cost of the Ashantee war was $4,500,000, and the net results were the capture of a negro king's umbrella and the burning of his capital.

France has imposed a supplementary tax of four francs a hundred weight on imported salt meats. This will somewhat affect our trade relations with that country.

Twelve of the fourteen colleges represented at the recent Hartford "Inter-Collegiate Convention have joined the "Inter-Collegiate Library Association" there formed.

PERSONAL.

The Yale Divinity school will turn out a colored graduate this year.

Senator Boutwell's illness is so serious as to awaken the serious concern of his friends. His difficulty is reported to be largely in the head, and he is unable to read or write except to a very limited degree.

The veterans at the Dayton Home are being rapidly furloughed, having received their March pensions. The number now on the rolls of the Home is one thousand seven hundred and ninety.

General Butler says he never sent tha letter to General Wilson. He wrote it, slept on it, and then pigeon-holed it. Meantime, however, he showed it to a friend who seems to have copied it, and this copy is the one that was lately put in print.

A lad eleven years of age was received by American Express at Springfield, Thursday, duly billed and tagged from Danville, Illinois, the charges being $12 50. He was the son of a Springfieldian who had not seen the child since he was three months old, at which time the father enlisted in the army.

Double-bodied people are getting plentiful and will create social difficulties. The latest we hear of is Blanche Dumas, a beautiful girl of fourteen years, who has been sent by Dr. Bailie to the Paris Faculty of Medicine for examination. She has a double body from the waist downwards, having only one head and two arms. She is very well, but she is not a double-header.

A report has been widely circulated for some weeks past that Edwin P. Whipple, the essayist, had been confined to his room by his physician on account of ill health. The Boston *Globe* says the statement is without foundation, and adds: "Mr. Whipple is as vigorous and active as ever, and is driving his brilliant pen with the greatest industry, doing some of the best work of his days."

When Sumner visited Europe the first time, he took with him letters from Judge Story. At one time he was invited to sit with the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. During the trial a point arose which seemed a novel one. The Lord Chief Justice turned to Sumner and asked him if there were any American decisions on that point. "No, your lordship," he replied, "but this point has been decided in your lordship's court room in such a case," giving him the citation. This remarkable readiness gave him *eclat* throughout the kingdom.

The following story told of Canon Kingsley is vouched for as true. It occurred recently, as he was about leaving New York, and is a good story, as it illustrates the reverence which an Englishman has for the aristocracy, even when they write such democratic books as "Alton Locke." The steamer upon which the Canon had taken voyage was all ready to weigh anchor without the reverend gentleman making his appearance. Lord Dunraven was also to sail for home at the same time. Just as the Captain was about giving the order to wait no longer, Canon Kingsley appeared, much excited, and though there was danger of the steamer losing the tide, the Canon insisted on further delay, for, screamed he, "We are one English Lord short." Lord Dunraven soon appeared, cool and collected, as though he had an inward consciousness that time, tide and Cunard steamers would wait if they were one English Lord short.

THE Treasury Department has issued a circular relative to the Canadian coast trade, in which is published an extract from a recent act of the Dominion of Canada, which went into operation March 16 last, forbidding under severe penalty the carrying of goods or passengers by water from one port of Canada to another, except in British ships. The Treasury circular with regard thereof says: "It will be observed, however, that by article thirty of the recent treaty between the United States and Great Britain, citizens of the first named country may carry in United States vessels, without payment of duty on goods, wares, and merchandise, from one port or place in the British possessions of North America to another port or place within the said possessions, if a portion of such transportation is made through the territory of the United States by land carriage, and in bond under rules agreed upon between the two governments, and that by article twenty-six the navigation of the rivers St. Lawrence, Youkon, Porcupine and Strikine, is left open under certain regulations."

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 7, 1874.

SENATE.

Bills in place were read as follows:

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny, Prescribing the mode of ascertainment and payment of damages resulting from grading streets, &c., in cities.

Mr. Wallace, To provide for the submission of civil cases by agreement of the parties to a referee learned in the law; also, allowing married women to open and keep bank accounts.

Mr. Waream, To authorize cities, counties and townships to enter into contracts with railroads, when they enter their limits, whereby said roads may relocate or change said road; also, allowing Notaries Public to appoint deputies.

Mr. Wartel, For the preservation of official roads in the several counties.

Mr. Playford, Amending the act regulating the sale of railroads, canals, &c. It gives the purchaser the same franchises as the original corporators. Also, repealing the act vacating certain streets in Port Perry.

Senator Graham desires it to be understood, in answer to many inquiries, that the Wallace City bill does not apply to cities already incorporated, unless they adopt it by a two-third vote of all the members of Council.

HOUSE.

Mr. Boyd, the new member from Wayne, was sworn in.

Mr. Laidley, of Greene, was able to be in his seat to-day, after an illness of six weeks.

The House remained in session but a short time, and adjourned.

Special to Pittsburgh Press.

HARRISBURG, April 8, 1874.

SENATE.

Bills were read in place, as follows:

Mr. Anderson, of Allegheny—Supplement to an act securing married women separate earnings.

Mr. Ermentrout—To prevent cattle from running at large. Also, to prevent defiling ponds and streams leased for securing ice.

Mr. McClure—Relative to the organization of Courts of Justice.

Mr. Ermentrout—To prevent the removal of stone, gravel, &c., from unseated lands.

The act authorizing common carriers, factors, &c., to sell goods, wares, &c., unclaimed, upon which they have a lien, passed finally.

In the afternoon session Mr. Wallace's City bill passed finally.

HOUSE.

The following bills passed first reading:

To provide for the commutation of sentences by the Governor; inflicting one hundred dollars fine for issuing free railroad passes, except where granted for a valuable consideration.

Bills in place—Supplement to act relating to county rates and levies, prescribing the basis of valuation of lands used for agricultural purposes; also, legalizing and giving effect to agreements of release and compromise between creditors and debtors.

The afternoon session was occupied entirely on the Corporation bill, No. 44.

By Associated Press.]

The Democratic members of the Senate and House held a caucus this morning, at which important action was taken. It was agreed that the Democrats of both branches of the Legislature would oppose the Centennial Appropriation bill and the bill for the increase of the debt of Philadelphia until the Republican majority in the latter agreed to pass a fair Apportionment bill for the city. This action may endanger the Centennial bill, which needs only to pass the House, it having gone through all preliminary stages in both Houses, but this partisan action of Democrats may have the effect of making the Centennial bill a party measure, in which case there will be enough Republican votes in the House to pass it without the aid of the Democrats.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 7, 1874.

Both Houses adjourned to-day, according to adjournment, and not a bit the better for the recess. The members came together jaded, tired and worn out, and with nothing ready for the work before them. The recess may be considered, very properly, as so much time thrown away, and with the additional drawback that it will take several days, yet, to get matters into working order again.

In the Senate, several bill came up on second reading, and were progressed in, but no bills passed finally, and about a dozen bills heretofore reported were read a first time. A few bills were read in place, but none reported from committee.

It was discovered, on re-assembling, that four bills, heretofore passed, were amenable to Executive objection, and would be vetoed, if not recalled. Resolutions were accordingly offered to recall them, and the Governor sent them back. They are as follows:

No. 20, Relative to transportation of explosive materials;

No. 35, Relative to compensation of County Treasurers;

No. 43, Judicial Apportionment bill;

No. 59, To regulate the increase of municipal indebtedness.

The vote on the final passage of these bills was considerable in the Senate, where they originated, and they were all laid over for further action, except No. 43, the amendments to which were offered by Mr. Rutan, and adopted, so that the final passage of the bill only fourteen Senators voted, and the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, carrying the bill over. The amendments made were not objectionable, being intended only to obviate some local difficulties caused by the residence of Judges in the same county, and by the fact that the Constitution, nowhere, except in the schedule, draws a distinction between President and associate law judges of a village, the latter to sit in their seats, and declined to vote, leaving the Senate without a quorum. Whether there is a purpose to kill the bill, if possible, or whether it is Dr. Peters, of Hamilton College, Clinton New York, and Lieutenant Bass, corps of engineers assigned to New Zealand; Lieut. Raymond, corps of engineers, and Lieut. Tillman, signal service assigned to Portland, in the regions of the Antarctic continent; Lieut. Commoders Ryan and Train, assigned to Kerguelin Islands; Prof. Harkness, Naval Observatory, in charge of observations at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land; Prof. Hall, of the Observatory, in charge of the station at Via Devonock, Siberia. Those still to arrive are Prof. Watson, of Ann Arbor College, charged with the Pekin, China, station; Prof. Davidson, of the Coast Survey, charged with the Yokohama, Japan, station, and Wm. Smith, Coast Survey and Mr. Clark of the same service, assigned to Chatham Island, New Zealand. Dr. Henry Draper, of New York, is here temporarily assisting in the photographic experiments. Each party will be supplied with an equatorial, a transit, clocks, chronometers, chronographs and photographic apparatus, including a forty-feet horizontal telescope. The United States steamer Swatara is now fitting out at New York to convey to their destination the parties detailed for the four stations in the Southern hemisphere. These will leave here with their apparatus in about three weeks, and the Swatara will sail with the parties on board about the end of May or early in June. The parties for the Northern stations will leave by the Japan steamer, which is here to be carried to their stations by a vessel of war.

No Glass Eyes for Soldiers.

The Senate Committee on Pensions have decided to report adversely on the House bill appropriating thirty dollars to each soldier who lost an eye in the service during the rebellion, that sum to be expended in the purchase of an artificial eye. The committee could see no reason that this or no particular use, as it added nothing to the comfort or convenience of the soldier. It is said that the bill was prepared at the instance of parties interested in the manufacture of glass eyes. It is evident there were no glass eyes in the committee. They are opposed to the invention of this new device for the abstraction of money from the Treasury under the plea of love for the brave defenders of the Union. If glass eyes would restore the powers of vision the committee would gladly favor the movement.

The Sanborn Contract.

When Mr. Sanborn was before the Ways and Means Committee a few days ago he raised an issue of veracity with Secretary Richardson in relation to the knowledge of the latter as to the terms of the contract. To-day Solicitor Banfield was examined, and his testimony confirmed that of Mr. Sanborn, and placed the Secretary in a very unenviable position. He said no paper prepared by him in the contract was signed without reading; that to have permitted such a thing to be done would have been to usurp the functions of the Secretary. He asserted that Mr. Richardson had full knowledge of the contract at the time.

The Currency Bill.

Mr. Maynard has again given notice of an hour when he will ask a vote on the pending Currency bill, and has this time fixed the hour of half-past three to-morrow. It is not probable that there will be another postponement, as the temper of the House is to dispose of the bill. General Butler has been canvassing among members to get their sense on the Senate bill, and will move it as a substitute at the proper time. Senators Logan and Morton were in the House for some time to-day urging the passage of the Senate bill as a substitute for that of the House.

An Insane Proposition.

The House Committee on Patents to-day agreed to report adversely on an insane proposition by the Delegate from this District to appropriate one million dollars to be disbursed by a designated board for the benefit of future inventors and discoverers. If every scheme of equal intelligence was adopted, it would require only about thirty days to bankrupt the Treasury.

The Gabble on Finance.

If the future historian should trouble himself to traverse the vast space covered by the discussions in Congress in a single session, he would doubtless be amazed at the scarcity of landing places, where he might rest and calmly contemplate the discovery of an idea. But when he would reach the morbid talk of the Forty-Third session on the finances, he would be reminded of that interesting and novel instrument, the kaleidescope. A few pieces of broken glass of various colors present a beautiful combination of figures, to be succeeded at the next turn by a new combination, neither of which, in the range of human probability, can ever be replaced in precisely the same form. The views of Senators and members on the finances have been just as varied, and the arguments of most of the talkers can find no better comparison than that they are about as complete and shapely as the unsightly fragments of glass in the kaleidescope—their statements gathering their only attractions from the transient glimpse of the speaker.

The Succession,

but not on sufficient authority. A rumor in circulation to-day, that A. J. Drexel, of Philadelphia, would be appointed, called out a shower of inquiring telegrams from New York.

Pennsylvania Delegation Criticised.

The action of the Pennsylvania delegation in Congress on the finance question has led to considerable criticism. Those who support inflation, claim that this is the only remedy for the stagnation in the iron trade, especially in the rail works and car shops. These persons seem to ignore the fact that of the $44,000,000 of the reserves already issued, almost the whole amount is stored away in the banks at the money centers. That amount not having had the desired effect upon business in Pennsylvania, it is considered that the additional $18,000,000 would not help matters. In regard to the increased national bank circulation, Pennsylvania has already her full share, so that she can expect none of that. It has been stated that if Congress were to grant aid to the Southern or Texas Pacific Railroad the ends aimed at through inflation would be accomplished in a more direct way. There is no indication, however, of any such action.

Senate Finance Bill in the House.

The prospects of the Senate Finance bill in the House don't appear so flattering as at first supposed, and this notwithstanding Butler's announcement that he should move it as a substitute for the bill reported from the Committee on Banking and Currency. Almost every member has a proposition of his own, and hence will vote against every other. If this be carried out, it would be difficult to say where the House will land.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8, 1874.

Astronomical Preparations.

The astronomical parties designated to conduct the transit of Venus, which takes place next December, are arriving at the Naval Observatory, and have commenced a series of experimental observations under the direction of Professor Newcomb. The instruments manufactured under the superintendence of Professor Harkness have also been received, and many of them are set up for trial. The grounds in the rear of the Observatory presents quite the appearance of a village, the portable transit and photograph houses and observatories, twenty-four in number, having been set up. The astronomers and assistants now here are Professor Newcomb, Professor Eddy, Clinton New York, and Lieutenant Bass, corps of engineers assigned to New Zealand; Lieut. Raymond, corps of engineers, and Lieut. Tillman assigned to Portland Island, in the regions of the Antaectic continent; Lieut. Commoders Ryan and Train, assigned to Kerguelin Islands; Prof. Harkness, Naval Observatory, in charge of observations at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land; Prof. Hall, of the Observatory, in charge of the station at Via Devonock, Siberia. Those still to arrive are Prof. Watson, of Ann Arbor College, charged with the Pekin, China, station; Prof. Davidson, of the Coast Survey, charged with the Yokohama, Japan, station, and Wm. Smith, Coast Survey and Mr. Clark of the same service, assigned to Chatham Island, New Zealand. Dr. Henry Draper, of New York, is here temporarily assisting in the photographic experiments. Each party will be supplied with an equatorial, a transit, clocks, chronometers, chronographs and photographic apparatus, including a forty-feet horizontal telescope. The United States steamer Swatara is now fitting out at New York to convey to their destination the parties detailed for the four stations in the Southern hemisphere. These will leave here with their apparatus in about three weeks, and the Swatara will sail with the parties on board about the end of May or early in June. The parties for the Northern stations will leave by the Japan steamer, which is here to be carried to their stations by a vessel of war.

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The Currency Bill.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Ireland.

LOSS OF FRENCH STEAMER EUROPE—FOUR HUNDRED PERSONS TRANSFERRED TO THE ORINOCO—THE EUROPE ABANDONED AT SEA.

QUEENSTOWN, April 7.—The steamer Egypt, which sailed from New York March 28th, arrived this evening. The Egypt brings the first officer of the steamer Greece and a salvage crew rescued from the French Trans-Atlantic Company's steamer Europe, which they endeavored to save, but were compelled to abandon at sea in a sinking condition after all the passengers and crew on board had been rescued by the Greece. The first officer of the Greece reports: "I left Liverpool March 25 and Queenstown March 26 for New York. On the 2d of April encountered the French steamer Europe from Havre for New York, in a sinking condition, and took off her passengers and crew, four hundred in number. With twenty men, I remained on board the Europe in hope of saving her, while the Greece proceeded on her voyage to New York with the people rescued from the French steamer. On the 4th of April we signaled the steamer Egypt and asked to be taken in tow. The latter consented, and hawsers were made fast, but owing to a heavy sea the lines parted and, as the water was constantly gaining on us, we concluded to abandon the Europe. We signaled the Egypt to take us off, and all were safely transferred to her and brought to this port. When we left the Europe there was eighteen feet water in her engine room. The Europe sailed from Havre March 27, for New York."

Germany.

ILLNESS OF KAULTACH, THE PAINTER.

MUNICH, April 7.—William Kaulbach, the celebrated historical painter, is suffering from an attack of cholera, which, it is feared, may prove fatal.

DEATH OF AN HISTORICAL PAINTER.

MUNICH, April 8.—Wm. Kaulbach, the painter, died last night.

England.

PROPOSITION TO APPOINT A VICE CHANCELLOR.

LONDON, April 8.—A special from Berlin to the *Standard* says that in consequence of the slow recovery of Prince Bismarck, it is proposed to appoint Campbausen Vice Chancellor, to perform the functions of Chancellor until the Premier's health is fully re-established.

THE FIJI ISLANDS.

LONDON, April 8.—The sovereignty of the Fiji Islands has been formally tendered to Great Britain.

DR. LIVINGSTONE'S FUNERAL.

LONDON, April 8.—The government will defray the expenses of Livingstone's funeral, which takes place at Westminster Abbey.

ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.

LONDON, April 8.—The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh will soon pay a visit to Ireland.

THE FAMINE IN INDIA.

LONDON, April 9.—A special to the *Times*, from Calcutta, reports that five hundred natives have died from disease and starvation in Hatcoul. The mortality from famine is sensibly abated by the relief measures of the government.

OMAHA.

Suit Against the Union Pacific for Three Millions---City Election Yesterday.

OMAHA, April 7.—Thomas C. Wardell, late Manager of the Wyoming Coal Company, has sued the Union Pacific Railroad and others for over three million dollars, which he claims is due the stockholders of the Coal Company. The Union Pacific have taken possession of all the mines and property, claiming that they own the largest share of the stock, and will hereafter run the mine in the interests of the road.

The election for city officers to-day has been very spirited. The contest was purely political, the Temperance movement not being considered worthy of notice. Champion S. Chase, Republican, is probably elected Mayor, and Edward Johnson, Democrat, Treasurer. Wilbur, Republican, for Police Judge, will be elected run, on account of his known stand on the temperance question, but will be elected. The returns cannot be given till morning.

THE OIL INTEREST.

Shipments from the Lower Fields During March—Empty Tankage.

[From the Oil City Derrick, 6th.]

The following table of daily shipments, during March, from the lower oil fields, will be found specially interesting and instructive, in these days, when some parties claim the outside demand has gone to the dominion bow-wows and there is the devil to pay generally. The figures are wholly reliable, and represent the total shipments by rail and water from the lower oil districts:

March 2	10,354
March 3	14,775
March 4	15,046
March 5	20,393
March 6	21,070
March 7	15,241
March 9	15,305
March 10	26,818
March 11	15,824
March 12	15,062
March 13	12,735
March 14	5,079
March 16	13,740
March 17	10,963
March 18	9,004
March 19	19,901
March 20	19,062
March 21	18,576
March 23 Sunday	39,061
March 24	11,744
March 25	11,446
March 26	14,020
March 27	11,717
March 28	15,034
March 30	16,731
March 31	9,681

This gives an aggregate of four hundred and twenty thousand one hundred and twenty-two barrels, to which must be added about thirteen thousand from Raymilton and Harrisville, making a grand total exceeding *four hundred and thirty-three thousand.* As compared with February this exhibits an increase of over *forty-three thousand barrels*, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the Standard Oil Company from the market and consequent lightness of business from Raymilton. This is a most encouraging state of matters, and the fact that the great Cleveland monopoly has again begun purchasing very largely proves conclusively that the much-talked-of relief in a decline of prices has vanished into thin air. Leading dealers in New York are preparing to, export enormous quantities, both of refined and crude, the foreign demand has acquired unprecedented proportions, and everything looks lovely for a return of better times to the petroleum world, provided the irresponsible producers act with proper judgment in the matter of developments. At the present moment almost one-third the tankage of the oil region is empty, and the prospect of filling it with "half-dollar oil" is about as slim as a self-righteous Pharisee's chance of promenading the golden streets of the New Jerusalem.

THE STATE TAX ON WRITS.

The Questions at Issue Between the County Controller and the Prothonotary and Recorder.

We have already stated the fact that Mr. Warner, County Controller, has refused to honor the drafts of the State Treasurer for the proceeds of the tax on writs collected by Prothonotary Kennedy and Recorder Richardson. The difficulty has its origin in the construction of acts of Assembly bearing on the question. The last draft which the State presented was for $6,000, but payment was refused, the Controller claiming that the fee bill of 1871 required this tax to be paid into the county treasury, and that it should be paid out only on countersigned warrants.

Section fifth of the act of 1872, provides: That the gross receipts of the offices of Prothonotary, Clerk of Quarter Sessions, Register and Recorder shall be paid into the county treasury for the use of the county in the same manner that other fees and emoluments are returned by the several officers in pursuance of the provisions of this act, and the act to which this is a supplement, and all acts or parts of acts conflicting with the provisions of this section are hereby repealed so far as they affect this act.

Mr. Warner contends that under the provisions of this act the money belongs to the county, and for that reason he has repeatedly refused to honor State drafts from the State authorities for the moneys collected annually at present to $12,000 or $13,000, and is increasing at the rate of nearly $1,000 a month. He thinks, further, that if the State has a legal claim upon the county, for the money, that claim should be established in the Courts.

The State authorities, on the other hand, take the ground that their claim is too plain for dispute, and they have notified the county officers that if they do not pay over to the State, that suit will be entered upon their official bonds.

Mr. Kennedy, the Prothonotary, has accordingly refused to pay over last month's receipts on writs to the Controller, and the County Solicitor has been requested to apply for a mandamus to compel him. He states that he is willing to pay to which ever officer is legally entitled to receive the money, but being placed between two fires, prefers to hold on to the money until the Courts decide the point at issue.

Mr. Richardson, the Recorder, has paid over to the Controller, and will let the State and county settle the matter as best they may.

Mr. kennedy has taken legal advice, having the opinions of Messrs. Marshall, Brown and Slagle in support of his action. On his behalf it is claimed that the general fee bill of 1871 does not affect the question, but in 1874 a special fee bill for Allegheny county was passed, which provides, among other things, that the fees appointed by law shall be collected and paid into the county treasury; provides for salaries of officers and deputies, and provides for payment to the State of the taxes. The act of 1871 also, it is claimed, recognizes the state tax as distinct from the fees of office, and section five of the act of 1872 declares that the fees shall be taxed and collectable and the gross receipts paid into the county treasury. The point is made that these acts do not affect in any way the tax on writs, but refer only to fees; and that if the tax on writs has been repealed it is not collectable at all.

The Prothonotary and Recorder feel aggrieved at the statement that they have been influenced in this matter by the consideration of the five per cent. allowed them by the State on this tax. Mr. Kennedy states that the commission is but three per cent., but under the fee bill he does not consider himself entitled to it all. Mr. Richardson says he has never received a cent from this source, and is not aware of any such commission being allowed.

The above presents the points at issue, as were able to ascertain them; and the matter is now in such a shape that the Courts will have to decide it.

THE INSANE AND IDIOTIC.

Interesting Statistics—Important Suggestions by the State Board of Charities.

Some weeks since a resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives at Harrisburg requesting the Board of Public Charities to report upon the subject of the insane of the State, giving the number and condition of this class, what proportion are chronic or curable cases, and (if additional accommodations are needed) a scheme for the complete fulfillment of the duty required of the State.

We have before us a report of the Board of Public Charities, in answer to the above resolution, which opens with reference to the difficulties encountered in obtaining accurate information in regard to the whole number afflicted with the various forms of mental derangement, from the fact that twenty-two of the sixty-six counties of the State are not provided with alms houses, and in eleven other counties only local alms houses exist. Where the "township system" of caring for the indigent exists, the returns have been of an imperfect character and afford but little aid in the preparation of satisfactory statement of the number of this unfortunate class in those counties and in parts of counties where there are no alms houses.

THE NUMBER OF INSANE.

The number of insane in Pennsylvania, as stated in the census report for 1870, was 3,895 This enumeration is not quite correct, falling short of the reality. By the returns on file the number of insane maintained in institutions, or by authorities making reports to the Board of Public Charities, on September 30, 1873, was 3,942. It is estimated that there are in additions about 600, who comprise the increase in county institutions since the above date—those who are retained under the private care, and those who wander about as outcasts—making a total of 4,442. This computation excludes the class of idiots, who numbered 2,250 by the census of 1870, for whom, of course, a different kind of institution is required.

The number of insane maintained in institutions, and by other authorities, is presented in the following statement:

In county alms-houses	1,041
Supported by out-door relief and townships	215
In jails and penitentiaries	35
Insane department of Philadelphia city alms-house	1,059
State Lunatic Hospital, Harrisburg	468
State Lunatic Hospital, Danville	196
Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Dixmont	452
Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia	411
Friends' Asylum, Frankford	84
Total	3,942

The Board says: A careful examination of the above table will show that 2,551 of the insane are in State and private hospitals, where they enjoy the benefit of in-door comforts and amusements, out-door exercise and recreation, and where competent medical and other attendance can always be obtained.

The insane in the county alms houses suffer for the want of almost every kind of needful consideration which are necessary to make life, even tolerable, bearable, or comfortable. With no care beyond the mere supply of their daily wants, and often these are effected by exceptions, to linger out their lives in the utter hopelessness of incurable insanity.

We forbear to dwell upon the large number of those who are suffering under different forms of mental derangement, and who die and find their way into the hospitals, being provided for in some sort by their families or friends, and of others who wander about as outcasts—both classes suffering gross neglect. The Pittsburgh poor-house relief and by townships, have probably their physical wants supplied, but they are without the benefit of any medical care or treatment.

As to the poor and "criminal insane," so called, continual jails and poor-houses, it may be said that about 200 to 300 are annually sent to county prisons, where they are detained until sentence can be effected, or their final transfer to county alms-houses or State hospitals, but a small proportion only are transferred to these latter institutions. It frequently happens, however, that some of the indigent and friendless are allowed to remain in the penal abodes. Nine of the fifteen now confined in the Allegheny jail are of this class, who, by no acts of crime or violence, without property, influence or friends. These defenceless unfortunates are suffered to ravel in the agonies of a prison, there to be classed with robbers and murderers.

CHRONIC AND CURABLE CASES.

In regard to what proportion of the insane are probably chronic and what curable cases, we consider 20 per cent. curable, and 80 per cent. chronic, as a fair estimate.

We have shown in a previous report to your honorable body, that it is clearly to the interest of the State that the insane should have appropriate and comfortable accommodations, under supervision, and the most patient and skillful curative treatment; it being a well ascertained fact, admitted we believe, by almost a unanimous voice (I) that under proper care and skillful treatment—as in most hospitals—about 50 per cent. of recent cases of insanity will be cured in the first six or twelve months, (2) in longer periods, more than 30 per cent. will be cured in twelve months. Assuming these premises, and making an average expenses of each patient in the hospital twice what it would be in the almshouses, the gain to the State under the capital treatment is simply enormous. But this is not all. There are likely to be more cures than reported, for the reason that many leave under the other. But suppose there were no, and that all the recoveries were to be incurable, there would remain on one side 95 incurables to be maintained for life, and, on the other, 30 and 40 per cent. of the curables restored, and the result would be in favor of hospital treatment as $65. But to say that the curative method would be a continual saving to the State for many subsequent years of more than 30 per cent. is self-evidenant. It also, it must be remembered that the greater part of the insane are in the prime of years of their insanity, and not their insanity to their poverty; and that in losing their power to support themselves they lose, also, in a large measure, their ability to revive rapidly, but a sudden release took place, and he died in the house of Dr. McAboy, on Tryon farm, Seventh Carolina, Saturday, March 28. As a preacher, Mr. Forsyth was a young man of fine promise; as a Christian man he was greatly beloved, and his early death is sincerely mourned.

The Physical Effects of Alcohol.

The New York *World* refers to the disagreement of doctors upon the question of the physical effects of alcohol. They are all of the opinion that it is highly undesirable that a man should drink too much. How much is too much is the question. It says, which to thirsty souls seems the important question, and upon this practically vital question the experts differ widely. When physicians are unanimous, it is generally under circumstances how much men ought to drink, or whether they ought to drink at all, they do not seem to shed much light upon the case of the individual drinker. Alcohol is a food, as one physician maintains, or is not a food, as another physician maintains with equal positiveness, is really not much to the purpose nevertheless. Carbon Oil.—The market, it would seem, has become stagnant. We continue to quote from store at 14½c; f. o. b. cars 12½c per gallon.

Common Goose.—Manufacturers of cotton goods in this vicinity report a fair trade demand. Following are the current rates of the market: Penn Mill A, No. 1, 14 sheeting at 11c; Nanatook 10½c; Pittsburgh Family 10c; Juniata, 9½c; Penn Mill, 9c; Lumbago 8½c; do 8¾c; white cotton chain 36c; do colored 38c; cotton batting 16c; cotton twine 21c.

Canned Goods—Fruits in Syrups—2½ ₱ lb: California apricots ₱ doz $3 2 ₱ lb; blackberries ₱ doz $2 2 ₱ lb; Winslow's blueberries ₱ doz $2 2 ₱ lb; white cherries; extra, $3 50; 2 ₱ lb red cherries $2 75; 2 ₱ lb grapes ₱ doz $2 2 ₱ lb; gooseberries ₱ doz $2 2½ ₱ lb green gages ₱ doz $2 2 ₱ lb; egg plums ₱ doz $3 50; 2½ ₱ lb; egg plums ₱ doz $3 50; 2 ₱ lb damson plums ₱ doz $3 2 ₱ lb; yellow peaches, extra, $3 75; 3 ₱ lb white peaches, extra, $3 75; 3 ₱ lb yellow peaches $3 25; 2 ₱ lb white peaches $3 25; 3 ₱ lb pie peaches $2 25; 2½ ₱ lb California Bartlett pears $3 25; 2½ Bartlett pears $4 50; 2 ₱ lb Bartlett pears $3 50; 2 ₱ lb pears $2 25; 3 ₱ lb pine apple $2 50; 2 ₱ lb orange quinces $3 25; 2 ₱ lb raspberries $3 00; 2 ₱ lb strawberries, extra, $3 75; 2 ₱ lb strawberries $2 75; 3 ₱ lb peach marmalade $3 50; 2 ₱ lb peach marmalade $3 50; 3 ₱ lb peach marmalade $3 50. Vegetables—3 ₱ lb Trimmed Asparagus, ₱ doz, $4 50; 2 ₱ lb Lima beans $2 75; 2 ₱ lb string beans $1 00; 2 ₱ lb. Winslow's, green corn, $2 25; 3 ₱ lb harmonized green corn $2 75; 2 ₱ lb Baltimore corn $2; 3 ₱ lb golden pumpkin $2 50; 2 small green peas $3; 2 ₱ lb marrowfat green peas $2 75; 2 ₱ lb French peas $2; 3 ₱ lb succotash (corn and Lima beans) $2 75; 3 ₱ lb Cape May tomatoes $2 50; 3 ₱ lb triumph tomatoes $2 50; 3 ₱ lb Baltimore tomatoes $2 50; 2 ₱ lb Baltimore tomatoes $1 80. Lobster, salmon, mackerel, oysters and clams—1 ₱ lb Winslow's, lobsters, ₱ doz, $2 50; 2 ₱ lb Winslow's lobsters $3 50; 1 ₱ lb California fresh salmon $3 25; 2 ₱ lb California fresh salmon $4 50; 1 ₱ lb Winslow's spiced salmon $2 50; 3 ₱ lb Winslow's spiced salmon $6 75; 2 ₱ lb Winslow's fresh mackerel $4 25; 1 ₱ lb mackerels (full) $3 25; 2 ₱ lb mackerels (full) $1 25; 1 ₱ lb cove oysters (light) $2; 2 ₱ lb cove oysters (light) $2; 1 ₱ lb spiced oysters (limit) $2 25; 2 ₱ lb spiced oysters (limit) $2 75; 1 ₱ lb cherry stone clams $2 50; 2 ₱ lb cherry stone clams $3 00. Sauces, Ketchup and horseradish—pint Halford sauce ₱ doz $4 25; pint Hartford sauce $2 50; pepper sauce $1 25; celery sauce $2 pint Cape May tomato ketchup $2 40; quart Cape May tomato ketchup $2 10. Prepared mustards—barrel style ₱ doz $4 50; fancy style $1 60; genuine French mustard $2 50; superior prepared mustard, ₱ pound, 85c. Jellies—assorted in glass tumblers ₱ doz $1 40; currant in tumblers $1 40; assorted in wine glasses $ 40; currant in wine glasses $1 40; assorted in goblets $2 75; currant in goblets $2 75; assorted in bottles $4 50; currant in bottles $4 50; assorted in in beer mugs $5 50. American pickles—1 gallon cucumber pickles, 90c; pickles, 3,200, ₱ bbl $12 50; barrels, medium pickles, 1,200, ₱ bbl $11 00; half barrels, medium pickles, 600, ₱ half bbl $6 00; barrels fancy mixed, 30 gallo, ₱ bbl $15 00; half barrels fancy mixed, 15 gallons, ₱ half bbl $8 00; pickles in glass—pint, plain, ₱ dozen $1 50; pint, mixed, $1 60; quart, plain, $2 50; quart, mixed, $2 75; half gallon, plain $3 50; half gallon, mixed, $3 50; gallon, plain, $5 50; gallon, mixed, $6 00.

Cheese—The stocks are being gradually reduced, which causes a firm market. Sales are reported in New York factory, in jobbing lots, at 18½@19c ₱ lb; Ohio Sweitzer 15@18c ₱ lb.

Coal.—Current rates. Steam coal in demand with sales, shoulders at 6½@7c; ribbed sides, 7@7½c; clear sides 8@9½c; hams 9½@10c ₱ lb.

Cranberries—The demand for choice varieties is quite active, and we are reported sales of several lots at $6 50@7 00 ₱ bbl; loughlouguy at $1 95@2 00.

Concentrated Lye—There is a fair inquiry with sales of four dozen packages at $7 50@8 00.

Crackers—Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps 12½c; cream crackers 7c; sodas 7c; sugar crackers 9½c; butter crackers 7c; water crackers 7c.

Cement—Louisville hydraulic cement $2@2 25 ₱ bbl; Phoenix hydraulic cement $2@2 25 ₱ bbl; Shawnee hydraulic cement $2 50; loughlouguy at $1 95@2 00.

Dried Fruit—As is usual at this season the stock of dried fruits become light. Such is the case now; hence prices rule very firm. Sales are reported daily to canning trade, 7c; mixed peaches, halves, 12@15c; new do, halves, 18@20c; quarters, 9@10c.

Eggs—The rising figures for strictly fresh eggs 18@19c per dozen, though some dealers will not take less than 20c. The receipts are heavy.

Field and Garden Seeds and Plants—Beans—Early valentine, Mohawk, dwarf German wax 90c ₱ qt. Beets—Early blood, long blood red, yellow globe, 10@15c ₱ qt. Cabbage—Early York, early Winningstadt, prize mammoth, green curled savoy, 25@35c ₱ oz. Cauliflower—Early Paris, early London, autumn giant $1@2 ₱ oz. Carrot—Early scarlet horn, long orange, Altringham, 15c ₱ oz. Corn—Early Concord sweet, mammoth or twelve rowed sugar, early sweet 10@15c ₱ qt. Cucumber—Early Russian, early cluster, early frame, 15c ₱ oz. Endive—Green curled, 25c ₱ oz. Endive—Green curled, French extra fine curled, 30c per oz. Lettuce—Early curled silesian, early curled simpson, early tennis ball, royal cabbage, 30c ₱ oz. Melons—Nutmeg, green citron, nutmeg, large yellow canteloupe, 20c ₱ oz. Melons, water—Mountain sprout, mountain sweet, 20c ₱ oz. Onions—Large silver skin, yellow Dutch, 20c ₱ oz. Parsnips—Hollow crowned, 15c ₱ oz. Peas—Early daisy, early kent, 15c ₱ qt. Radish—Early and best, 40c ₱ oz. Potatoes—Early rose, Buckeye, peachblow. Prices regulated by the extensiveness of variety. Salsify—Large sandwich, 15c ₱ oz. Tomato—Red top, white, 25c ₱ oz. Turnip—Red topped, white, 25c ₱ oz. Petunia—Improved purple top, 25c ₱ oz. Swedish, 75c ₱ lb.

Fish—No. 1 mess mackerel $34; No. 1 shore mackerel $30; extra No. 1 mackerel $32 50; No. 1 bay mackerel $17 00; extra No. 2 mackerel $16; No. 2 bay mackerel are held at $16 ₱ bbl; No. 3 mackerel are out of market. Georges codfish $5 00@5 50 ₱ 100; medium do ₱ do. Herring—Scaled, large, $6 50; scaled, 25 to 30 lake trout $7 00@7 50; white fish $8 00@8 50; lake trout ₱ do 00@7 50; red herring, scales ₱ box 50c; round ₱ box.

Feathers—There is a fair local demand, and sales are made in a jobbing way at 32@35c ₱ lb for No. 1, and 70@72c for No. 2 ₱ lb.

Flour—The firmness in the flour market before noted continues. Prices, however, remain unchanged. Holders are firm in their views, and will not make concessions to effect sales. Orders from the country are still coming in, which, with the local demand, causes a tolerably fair trade. The following is a summary of the rates of the market: Prime white wheat flour ₱ 196 lbs at wagon $6 75@7 00; choice do $7 00@7 25; spring wheat $7 00@7 25. Rye flour $5 50@5 65 ₱ bbl.

Groceries—Roasted coffees are still selling at the decline mentioned yesterday; all other articles unchanged in price. Trade is reported brisk, and the lookout for still better times favorable. We quote as follows:

Green Coffees—Rio, prime to fancy ₱ lb, 20@20c; Strictly prime ₱ lb, 28@28c; Strictly good ₱ lb, 27@27c; Fair ₱ lb, 25@26c; Java ₱ lb, 33@37c.

Roasted Coffees—Rio, prime to fancy, 25c; Roasted Rio coffee, in bulk, 28c; Roasted Java coffee, in bulk, 40c.

Sugars—Standard extra C, 10c; Standard B, 10¾c; Standard A, 10¾c; Standard hards, 11¾c; Franklin No. 2, extra, 9½c; American extra C, 9½c.

Tea—Young Hyson 50@$1 10 ₱ lb; Gunpowder 50@$1 25; Imperial best, $1 25@$1 50; ruling grades, $1 00@1 25; fancy $1 ₱ lb; Souchong 25@50c.

Molasses—Strictly prime New Orleans 75c; choice 68c; and scarce; old or y 60@70c, and little offering.

Syrups—Extra white drips 76c; sugar drips 65c; low grades, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Carolina 9@9½c; Patna 8@8½c; Rangoon 8c.

Grain—We have no material change to note as relates to prices or demands. For certain descriptions there is a moderate inquiry, but the market is unchanged. The receipts were not large. Wheat—In moderate supply; the mills are well provided. Sales reported are: Red winter $1 50@1 55; white $1 60@1 65 ₱ bush. Corn—In moderate supply and active; as the demand, prices were a little uncertain. We quote: Mixed 54c; white 56c ₱ bushel. Corn in the ear was quoted at 50@52c. We quote: Ear, in bulk, 75c; in sacks, 77@78. Shelled sold in small lots at 60@62c; a small lot offering at that figure. Rye—was neglected. We hear of an occasional sale at 95c@$1 00 ₱ bushel. Barley—Sales reported at 90c@$1 00 ₱ bushel; correct figures are not obtainable. We omit them.

Hay—Timothy, $16@$17 ₱ ton.

Hay—Baled, wharf and track, $18@23; wagon $20@22.

Honey—Clover 40c ₱ ₱ ; buckwheat blossom 30c.

Hominy—Sales at $5 25@5 50 ₱ bbl.

Lard Oil—No. 1 at 80@82c ₱ gallon; No. 2, 62 @65c.

Maple Molasses and Sugar—Gallon jugs at $1 25@1 35; sugar, in grain, 14@15c ₱ lb.

Mill Feed—Coarse middlings, $16@17; middlings at $14@1 50; oil meal at $1 20@2 00.

Onions—Sales silver skinsat $4 00@5 50 ₱ bbl; top sets at 90c@$1 00 ₱ bush.

Poultry—We are reported sales of dressed turkeys at 16@17c ₱ ₱ ; chickens 13@14c; ducks 14@15c.

Potatoes—Prime peachblows, at 30@31 25 ₱ bush in jobbing lots.

Rising Sun Stove Polish—Sales made at $6 00 ₱ gross.

Rags—Cotton at 3c ₱ ₱ and woolen at 2½c.

Sapolio—Cases of 6 dozen, $6 00; hand sapolio, cases of 6 dozen, $6 00.

Seeds—Clover seed $6 00@6 25; timothy seed $3 25@3 50 per bush; flaxseed $2 20@3 30; orchard grass $3; blue grass $2 25@2 50; red top grass $2 00.

Salt—Car lots, per bbl, $1 60; jobbing lots $1 80@1 85.

Tubbs—Sales at $1 25@1 40 per bbl.

Tallow—Sales at 9½@9¾c ₱ ₱. Demand good.

Whisky—We quote at 98c@$1 00 per gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, April 8, 1874.

REMARKS—The market in the oil regions was more active and a shade firmer. Buyers were more inclined to take hold. The result was several thousand barrels changed hands in the oil regions, Parker's coming in for its share. In the language of an old oil man, there is yet plenty of room for improvements.

In our market we did not learn of a single sale. The following lots changed hands at

PARKER'S:

1,250 bbls, United "prime crude.....@11 97½
2,000 bbls, United, at wells.....65
2,000 bbls, Union, at wells.....1 70

For prices at other points see dispatches.

PITTSBURGH PETROLEUM.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

Prices advancing; sales delivered at C. & P. R. R. station $1 37½; at wells $1 12½ per bbl.

REMARKS.

The market, so far as prices are concerned, has undergone no change for some time. The rates at the works are 12½c per gallon; in a jobbing way the usual advance being paid.

Philadelphia—Dealers report the market quiet; spot 10½c, April 12½c, May 16½c, June 16½c.

New York—Sales first half April 15½@15¾c.

OIL BARRELS.

Prices unsettled. We quote nominally $1 65 at 70.

PETTSVILLE, April 8.—The *Herald* says: The petroleum markets were quiet and unchanged. On upper road the market was $2 00@2 05, and closed at $2 00. Petrolia—Early in the day there was about $1 92½ to $1 97½. The home refined market was 8½c in bulk, and 13c in bbls. Benzine 41 7½@42c. Sales—

6,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....$2 05
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....2 04½
4,000 bbls upper road, spot.....2 00
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 97½
3,500 bbls, b. c. April.....2 15

$50 bbls, Parker's, United.....1 92½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells.....1 63
3,500 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells.....1 97½
1,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells.....1 67½
2,000 bbls, Parker's, Union, at wells.....1 70

New York, April 8, closing 7.—The market for crude in bulk was a little easier with light inquiry at 7½@7¾c. Refined held steadily; sales 12,000 bbls first half April, 15½c; 5,000 bbls do 15¾c; 5,000 bbls, April 15th to 25th, 15¾c. Gases 29½c. Naphtha 9½c. Philadelphia quiet and steady; refined 15½@15¾c.

Boston—Refined to prime quoted at 15c; dull and held at $1 90.

Titusville, April 8.—Market quiet but firm at $1 72½ bid.

Petroleum Center, April 8.—Market firm and quiet at 72½c bid.

Titusville, April 8.—Market quiet at $1 95 bid, $2 00 asked.

Oil City, April 8.—Market nominally $2 00.

Parker's, April 8.—Market firm; United $1 97½; United three days $1 92½; Parker's $1 92½.

Philadelphia, April 8.—Market quiet: S. W. 15½c; crude 7½c; cases 20c; sales none; futures: April 15½c; May 16½c; June 16½c.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1874.

THE latest reports from Calcutta give assurances of a greatly improved situation in the famine stricken districts of India.

THE Legislature of Newfoundland has passed the necessary laws to carry the Washington Treaty into effect, so far as the shipping interests of that Province are concerned.

PITH of the South Carolina "tax-payers'" memorial to Congress: *Resolved*, That this world belongs to the saints. *Resolved*, That we are the saints.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT is receiving unstinted commendation from the press of the country for his promptness in moving the military to the scene of the late disorder on the Erie Road.

A CALL has been issued for a convention of Confederate Surgeons (field and hospital) to meet at Atlanta, Georgia, May 20. Probably they intend to make a post mortem examination of the Confederacy.

SO WE are to have another national park. The Senate Military Committee has reported favorably a bill setting apart a portion of the Island of Mackinac and the Straits of Mackinaw for that purpose.

THE Customs and Internal Revenue Bureaus are preparing for a grand raid on delinquent tax-payers. Twenty million dollars is the amount estimated as obtainable by this raid, and we trust every dollar of the sum may be secured.

NO LESS than eight or ten parties, it appears, are at present organizing in different parts of the country, preparatory to dispersing to various remote quarters of the world for the purpose of making observations of the transit of Venus, which occurs next December.

THE exports from the port of New York, exclusive of specie, for the week ending March 31, amounted to $6,047,968, against $5,361,289 for the corresponding week of 1873. The total exports since the first of January are $68,962,920, against $64,387,808 for the corresponding period of last year.

THE imports, exclusive of specie, at the port of New York, for the week ending April 4, amounted to $9,852,472, against $7,576,073, for the corresponding week of last year. The total imports since the first of January reach $110,173,463, against $127,195,317 for the corresponding period of 1873.

IT IS understood that the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne Railroad Company are endeavoring to float a million dollar loan on the London money market. The loan is divided into £200 shares, which they offer at £195, seven per cent. interest, payable in gold in London, semi-annually, with the Pennsylvania Railroad as security.

BILBAO, the pivotal point on which the destinies of Spain appear to hang, is a town in the northern part of that country, some fifty or sixty miles from the French border, and about fifteen miles from the coast. It is the capital of the Province of Biscay, and a place of considerable importance. It is encompassed by lofty mountains.

A QUIET movement is in progress among the Republican leaders of New York to secure the renomination of Governor DIX. There is to be an informal conference on the subject, at the residence of one of the members of the State Executive Committee, to-day, when something of public interest may be developed. The Democrats have not made any movement as yet.

AMONG the concomitant features of the Temperance movement, not the least noticeable is the fact that it has met with hardly any opposition worth mentioning, either in speech or manifestations of personal violence. There are so many millions of capital employed in the manufacture of liquors, and so many persons depend upon it for their daily living, that this quiescence is scarcely less remarkable than creditable.

THE action of one of the Rhode Island banks in instituting proceedings in bankruptcy against the SPRAGUE Manufacturing Company, has created great excitement throughout the State. There appears to be an universal cry of indignation against the bank for pressing their claim at this time, when the company had just begun to see its way clear and confidence was being restored.

THE falling off in our importations of foreign dry goods still continues. The total amount entered at the port of New York during the month of March was $12,618,896, against $19,936,595 for the corresponding period of last year, and $17,917,463 for that of the year before. Within the last nine months there has been a decrease in these imports of over twenty million dollars.

SOME ten millions of our government securities have been exported from Europe within the past few weeks. Several causes, more or less speculative, have contributed to this return movement; one of which, is the English Indian loan, to which we recently referred. Another is the continued disposition of Germany to sell out American securities and to replace them with European investments.

THE New York *Bulletin* presents a comprehensive review of the business situation and outlook, and, accepting facts as they are, sees nothing in them not indicative of steady, if slow, recovery from the inherited influences of the great September panic, from which we are not yet wholly exempt. Still, there is such a reasonable degree of healthful activity all around as leaves but little opportunity for croakers or croaking.

THE Pacific Railroad Committee are holding a secret investigation. The matter has been kept unusually quiet, and very little has been ascertained of the scope of the inquiry, but as the government Directors of the Central Pacific have been before the committee, it is conjectured that the investigation of that company, demanded by the California Legislature, is in progress. If so, the country may look out for some interesting revelations, one of these fine days.

IF THE Calhounites of South Carolina, who are at present plaguing Congress, didn't wish to part with their political ascendancy, why, in the name of prescience, did they peril it in so stupid a game as that of secession and rebellion against the Union? One cannot eat his cake and have it, too; and if men will sow dragon's teeth, they should be the last to complain if the harvest yields exactly in accordance with its kind.

SOMETIME ago we gave, in these columns, the gist of the decision of a Massachusetts court, in a suit to recover damages for the fraudulent use of a certain foreign trade label, to the effect that the State law did not protect foreign manufacturers. The Supreme Court of that State has just reversed that decision, holding that to give the law such a construction "would defeat its principal object, and expose our people to all the impositions and deceptions against which the law was intended to guard them."

IT APPEARS that the idea of running Senator GORDON, of Georgia, for Vice President, with a leading Northern man for the first place on the ticket, is being canvassed at Washington among representative Democrats, and is said to find much favor with Northern and Western members of the party. "HANCOCK and GORDON," or "THURMAN and GORDON" are reported to be the premonitory forecastings of the Presidential Democratic ticket of 1876. It does not matter who the nominees are, however. They are foreordained to defeat.

THE AGASSIZ memorial fund, it is gratifying to note, is growing steadily. It is proposed that the teachers and pupils of the whole country take part in raising up, upon a strong and enduring basis, the memorial to be completed, and to which he devoted his life, as simple "LOUIS AGASSIZ, Teacher," the Museum of Comparative Zoology—by contributions on the birthday of the great scientist, the 28th day of May. It is proposed to keep the fund separate and apply the income to the expenses of the museum.

IT IS strongly intimated in New York that the recent strikes and other serious labor disturbances along the line of the Erie Railroad were primarily instigated and fomented by GOULD and other speculators in his interest who have been conspiring to depress the price of the stock with a view to either making a handsome turn in the market or to buy in a controlling interest in the roads at lower rates. If this charge can be sustained by evidence, they should be brought instantly to book and punished to the utmost extent of the law.

THE CRUSADES IN ENGLAND.

Leading English newspapers some time ago felt called upon to express their views on the subject of the women's movement against whisky in Ohio and other Western States. They have, however, alleged no argument against the justice or propriety of the movement, which has not been urged in various forms by all the principal organs of the American press. The treatment of the subject in the English journals differs from its treatment in the American journals in two respects. While the latter, dealing with a present reality, and addressing persons either actually engaged in the movement or possibly disposed to give it their sympathies, have employed the moderate and conciliatory tone appropriate to decent, courteous discussion, the English papers, feeling no need for reserve, have bluntly expressed their condemnation of the eccentric method of reform. The other difference every intelligent reader can anticipate. It would be nothing less than strange if an able and genteel British editor, writing about such a movement on this side of the water as the whisky war, should neglect or fail to derive from it a lesson adverse to republican institutions. The *Spectator* perceives in the movement a lamentable consequence of the longing for excitement which results from the monotonous and unsocial character of American life. The *Saturday Review*, having for some time regarded the reports of the war which reached it as an elaborate Yankee hoax, at length condescended to form some conception of the thing as somewhat going on in *rerum natura*. This it could achieve in only one way; that is, by imagining what the facts given in the American papers would imply, if they had taken place in an English town or rural district. Evidently the erudite reviewer was terribly agitated in presence of the atrocities thus conjured up by his imagination. He saw women, "British females" everywhere, ranging the streets, storming the gin-palaces and spreading general havoc among bottles and barrels. He saw the men, "British males," utterly vanished, banished in terror from their own domain, helpless to restrain the Amazons or arrest the tide of destruction. Then, after a little reflection, the reviewer comforted himself with the thought that such things could never be done in England or in any other land in which "individual rights and rational freedom are respected;" whereas, among Americans, degraded by the habit of ruling themselves, the phenomena were only natural. Happy the people who stand fast by Queen, Lords and Commons; their liquor shall be sure.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* is more profoundly philosophical in its treatment of the subject. It points to the women's movement as a "proof of the danger of drawing women out of their proper sphere under the influence of religious excitement, and also as a sign of what we may expect in the way of female tyranny when they begin to take a recognized part in political contests." Love and religion, according to the *Gazette*, are the two closely connected motives which always have worked and always will work most strongly in women. Under existing social arrangements women occupy the position in which these motives can operate with only beneficial results, as at the head of a household the more religious and affectionate a woman is the better both for others and herself. But let her become a politician and her religion and her affection will instigate her to passionate and violent interposition with what she deems evils, but what are really things which respect for the rights and property of others forbids any one to meddle with, except by the use of moral or rational means.

So far the *Pall Mall Gazette*. On the other hand, there are Americans, some of them persons of character and intelligence, who honestly believe that by their crusade against whisky, women have revealed "a new and beneficent social force" which is destined to exert a powerful and permanent influence for good on the morals and manners of society. In other words, they believe that the method found for a while successful against one evil may be applied by the same persons with equal or greater effect against other evils. In opposition to both these views of the subject, in mitigation of the alarm of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and in refutation of the notion that a new social force has been brought to light in the crusaders, the *Nation* newspaper of New York contends that while women retain their present constitution and character it is simply impossible for them to verify either of the theories referred to. Women, says the *Nation*, are what they are, in a considerable degree, because men are what they are, that is, each sex in a degree moulds and controls the other. But let us cite the entire argument, which is well worth reading as a rational explanation of the sort and measure of success that has followed the women's movement:

"If women were capable of the line of conduct which the *Pall Mall Gazette* dreads—that is, of persistently mobbing men into submission to their views of propriety and morality—they could never have been kept in isolation from affairs in which they have lived during the last five thousand years at least; their position would long ago have ceased to be one of subordination and seclusion. The 'subjection of woman' would have come to an end, as slavery and serfdom, and the Roman empire have come to an end, not through legislation, but through the force of circumstances. The reason why the privilege of voting will not enable women to carry on the 'whisky war' or any similar kind of war indefinitely is the same as the reason why they have never made their way to an equal place with men in the conduct of the business of the world. They are not combative, or energetic, or persistent, or resolute enough, and never will be—a few cases of successful professional women to the contrary notwithstanding. Indeed, the submission of the liquor dealers, and the forbearance of the male mobs thus far, has been due largely to the strangeness of women's appearance, as street missionaries, and want of experience in dealing with them in the character of aggressors. But it has been due also in part to the peculiarity of the evil against which this movement is directed. If it is an evil which concerns women, as women, in a remarkable degree, and poisons their happiness in the very sphere which everybody concedes to be, *par excellence*, their sphere. No human being is more profoundly to be pitied than the wife or daughter or mother of a drunkard, or is more completely helpless in the presence of tremendous misfortune; and everybody, liquor dealers included, feels this and allows for it. Women would enjoy no such advantage in dealing with any other evil of abuse. Even if they were themselves so absurd as not to perceive this, men would perceive it; and if women began to make a practice of coercing people into submission at boisterous gatherings, men would very speedily deliver themselves from the nuisance by a resort to the same physical force which has so long given them supreme control of the world's affairs.

"To suppose, on the other hand, that the present movement is going to last very long, and to have any very marked effects capable of definition in figures, as some of our moral and religious friends do, is, as it seems to us, to attribute a chimera to another kind. As we have said before, the women have owed a good deal of their success thus far to the novelty of their weapons. Praying and singing by ladies in front of low taverns has thus far been a spectacle sufficiently odd to dumbfounder the keepers, and there is sufficient halo of association and feeling about prayer and praise to impose respect on the bystanders. But neither prayer nor praise can very long stand the strain which this conflict is imposing on them. Indeed, we are surprised they have stood it so long. They have owed their efficacy thus far largely to the tradition which makes them the channels of addressing the deity by a human soul of its inmost feelings. They will retain the benefit of this tradition for a limited period only, after which they will be used for awhile in the streets as a weapon of mundane warfare against a semi-criminal class, the popular reverence for them must rapidly die out, and the theory which gives them their sanctity perish in the minds of large numbers even of those who engage in them, and then of course the end is not far off. That the movement has already reached its limit is shown in its failure in the large cities, where local opinion cannot be concentrated. The very utmost that can be expected from it is, in our opinion, the intensification, greater or less, of the feeling that bars are disreputable resorts, and that drinking at them is degrading, but the value of this result even will depend on the effort not being pushed far enough to make it ridiculous or futile, and thus insure a reaction."

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Mexico just now presents an excellent illustration of the inefficacy of laws when not sustained by the public sentiment which is required to enforce them. Some time ago the Roman Catholic Church ceased to be the Church of the State; Church and State having been declared by act of Congress completely independent, and absolute freedom of conscience and worship having been established by law. Even the Jesuits have been banished, and monasteries and nunneries have been abolished. But this legislation does not, in any proper sense represent the feelings and convictions of the great mass of the Mexican people. It appears to have been inspired by a small minority of men in the large cities, chiefly in the capital, who pay some attention to foreign literature, and have sufficient intelligence to connect the turbulence and degradation of their country with the cause which to disinterested foreigners appears most active in producing the evil. At any rate, almost the entire feminine portion of the Mexican people, irrespective of race, and almost the entire Indian element, three-fourths of the population, are said to be quite as much as ever under the influence of the priests.

The subject happens at present to possess considerable practical interest in this country. No sooner had the liberal legislation mentioned above been adopted than several American Missionary Societies promptly took advantage of the opportunity to organize operations for the propagation of Protestantism in the Mexican republic. By enlightened government officials in the capital and in some other cities the agents of these American societies have been kindly received. They are easily discovered to be useful educators as well as religious teachers, and by gathering children into schools and teaching them the elements of knowledge, by distributing good books among the people, etc., they commend themselves and their work to the good will even of Mexicans, who may care not at all for the religious side of their activity. The government under the present President and his predecessor, has issued the most explicit and positive orders to its function-aries for the protection of the Protestant missionaries. But unfortunately some of the officials to whom these orders are addressed, are still in full sympathy with the old church, and regard the foreign teachers as odious heretics, whom it would be piety to worry or destroy and whom it is ignominy as well as infidelity to defend. Such being the prejudice of some ministers of the government, it is easy to fancy with what hatred the missionaries are looked upon by the common rabble, especially by the Indians and mixed portion of it.

In fact, the devotion of these unenlightened classes to the disestablished church is so ardent and notorious as to have, a while ago, suggested a scheme by which the clerical party hoped to overthrow their antagonists and regain their lost power in the country. Three citizens having been sent by the government to a place named Zinancatepec in the State of Mexico for the purpose of organizing there a communal council, the cry was raised that they were Protestants, whereupon the people, shouting, "let religion prosper! death to the whites and to Protestants!" seized them, imprisoned them in a chimney of an other kind. As we have said before, the adobe house, and after a little reflection, the reviewer comforted himself with the thought that such things could never be done in England or in any other land in which "individual rights and rational freedom are respected;" whereas, among Americans, degraded by the habit of ruling themselves, the phenomena were only natural. Happy the people who stand fast by Queen, Lords and Commons; their liquor shall be sure.

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All doubtless remember the more recent murder of the American missionary, Mr. STEVENS at the little town of Ahualuco in the State of Jalisco. He had succeeded in forming a small congregation of Protestants to whom he regularly ministered, besides daily instructing a school of boys in the elements of a useful education. The murderers were directly instigated by the priest of the town whose eloquence is probably not often so effective. The doctrine of his sermon was that a tree which brings forth evil fruit must be destroyed, and in practical application of the truth urged upon their attention, the wretched multitude broke into Mr. STEVENS' house and not only killed him but mutilated his remains most shockingly. The church bells were then rung in celebration of the victory.

Some American papers, and more correspondents of papers, have earnestly called on the American government to take strong measures with reference to this outrage. They do not say precisely what they would have done. But there really seems no call for anything more than such an inquiry as may denote that the atrocity has arrested attention. No doubt the Mexican government is sufficiently indignant about the matter and well disposed to punish the perpetrators as they deserve. Though their punishment may for a while at least prevent a repetition of the offense in that particular place, such things may be looked for in Mexico for some time to come. Nothing but the progress of education in the republic will prevent their occurrence. The people in their ignorance are thoroughly fanatical, and it is most likely not the worst of the priests morally who utilize their passions to arrest the growth of heresy.

AN EXCITING DISCOURSE AND A MODEST MORALIST.

Dr. HOWARD CROSBY is a distinguished clergyman, at least in the Presbyterian Church, of whose General Assembly he was lately the Moderator. He is also pastor of a large and important church in New York city, and is besides Chancellor of the New York University, in which institution he formerly during some time filled the post as Professor of the Greek language and literature. It is therefore not surprising that Dr. CROSBY's recent sermon on the subject of Temperance has attracted considerable attention. Indeed, attention with "considerable" prefixed is hardly the right word to denote the excitement which the sermon has produced in certain quarters. Some readers, however, may have neither seen nor heard of the discourse alluded to, and may, therefore, need to be informed what there was in it to produce such effects. According to the epitomized report of the sermon, Dr. CROSBY began by censuring, as unmanly and unchristian, the weak sentimentalism which makes the drunkard a poor creature to be pitied instead of a sinner to be denounced. Drunkenness, said the preacher, is a heinous sin and not a mere weakness or misfortune. It is therefore an offense against society to be punished with a severity corresponding to the greatness of the crime. Dr. CROSBY would punish the willful drunkard-maker also, by providing laws to prevent tippling. On the other hand, the moderate drinker, he said, is not to be denounced; in moderate drinking there is no offense against society, no sin. The moderate drinker can be regarded as abetting the drunkard only by his example; but the fact is that the drunkard does not imitate the example of the moderate drinker—otherwise he would be no drunkard. In reference to the rule of expediency, as it is called, the rule that would forbid drinking out of concern for the influence of example, Dr. CROSBY remarked that this rule did not prevent CHRIST the LORD from being a moderate drinker *in an age when drunkenness was even more prevalent than now*." In conclusion, the preacher made some very pointed remarks concerning the intemperance with which many temperance people advocate their cause.

As if to verify Dr. CROSBY's criticism "on the spot" and without delay, prominent champions of the cause have made both sermon and preacher the objects of bitter and most abusive denunciation. At a meeting in Brooklyn on last Friday evening, the Grand Worthy Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance classed Dr. CROSBY with HARRY HILL, the notorious gambling saloon proprietor. "Hellish doctrine," "tippling minister," "friend of the groggeries," etc., etc., are the mildest terms employed by other eminent apostles of temperance in speaking of the obnoxious sermon or its author. Let us trust that by the hard words of these potent teachers of ethics the offending preacher may be brought to repentance and recantation. Certainly if mere vehemence of speech can ever effect any result of the kind, the change may be confidently looked for in this instance.

We confess, however, that to us as chroniclers of the times, these fierce denunciations are less interesting than the sober, scriptural arguments with which other advocates of total abstinence endeavor to confute Dr. CROSBY's doctrine. The *Independent*, for instance, which treats the preacher so politely as to have called forth from him a letter of thanks, frankly admits that the Bible nowhere objects to moderate drinkers. It admits that "our LORD's first miracle was the manufacture of an intoxicating beverage," called wine, and it also mentions the fact that "He who said to ST. JOHN, Write, omitted drunkards and remembered to include "all liars" among those who "shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone." This latter fact is of course brought to mind for the benefit of those who, in dealing with biblical texts bearing on the subject of temperance, sometimes betray a disingenuousness greatly needing admonition. Having made all these admissions, the courageous *Independent* denies that CHRIST's morality was altogether such as people need at the present day. "There has been some progress since CHRIST's time in the application of the principles of abstract morals." As the *Independent* is or wishes to be regarded as an orthodox organ, and therefore of course believes that CHRIST was GOD, the modesty and humility of the remark just quoted are simply overpowering. Equally admirable are the ethical feeling and discernment which it implies. GOETHE probably did not regard CHRIST as more than a moral teacher, and yet GOETHE thought and said to ECKERMANN, "Spiritual culture may continually and ever advance, the natural sciences may at ever grow in breadth and depth, and the human spirit may expand as it will; beyond the elevation and ethical refinement of Christianity as it shines and illumines in the Gospels it can never advance (wird er nicht hinaus kommen). But GOETHE was mistaken; how could he anticipate the sublime clerical moralists of the *Independent?*

FOUND AT LAST.

It is gratifying to learn that Dr. LIVINGSTONE's papers, including a diary of his last journeys, are safe in the hands of Mr. ARTHUR LAING, a British merchant in Zanzibar. These papers, sealed by the great traveler himself when, on the approach of death, he became no longer able to write, were conveyed to the coast at the same time with the embalmed remains. Readers interested in the subject of course remember that LIVINGSTONE's diaries of travel up to the time of STANLEY's visit at Ujiji, were brought to England by that gentleman and by him placed in charge of the Doctor's daughter, Miss AGNES LIVINGSTONE, according to directions. Thus the necessary materials exist for the preparation of a satisfactory account of the most interesting and in some respects important explorations of recent times. Doubtless, journals written under the disadvantages surrounding LIVINGSTONE in his solitary wanderings, will exhibit many obscurities, many mere hints of adventures undergone, perils escaped, and remarkble scenes beheld; hints which would have enabled him to recall and record narratives of thrilling interest, but which can now be of no other use than to remind readers of the fearless and persevering character of the man. Still it is much that any record, however imperfect, exists of so many years of so memorable a life. We need hardly say that, in all human probability, the world is indebted for this great boon to Mr. H. M. STANLEY, and the generous New York editor who sent STANLEY on his wild and apparently hopeless adventure in search of the lost traveler.

When STANLEY found him at Ujiji he had just returned from an exhausting tramp of nine or ten months. He described himself as a "mere ruckle of bones," broken down in health and almost ready to despair. He had been neglected by the officials on the coast, who should have watched over his interests; he had been robbed by the seizure of his supplies, and as the entire body of slaves of cotton, naval stores, tobacco and rice, reaching a large amount. agents had engaged in a conspiracy to defeat his enterprise by robbing him again and again, there is no reason to believe that the supplies for which he had resolved to wait at Ujiji would ever have come to hand. Indeed, a part of the scheme of the slave-hunters consisted in representing him as dead, and they had pretty well succeeded in making Dr. KIRK, the British agent, and other Englishmen at Zanzibar believe their story. If the story had come to be circulated by foreigners on the coast, the slave-traders would undoubtedly have taken good care that it should never be authoritatively contradicted, and they would have had no difficulty in making effectual contradiction impossible. LIVINGSTONE would have been destroyed in one or another way.

Their plans were completely frustrated by the splendid courage, fortitude and perseverance of STANLEY. His visit was the medicine LIVINGSTONE needed to restore his health and spirits. He furnished him abundantly with the stores, drugs and other supplies required for the prosecution of his explorations. And as regarded the traveler's safety, an equally important service, he conveyed to the coast full assurance of his being alive, and full information concerning the malignant intrigues and machinations to which he was exposed on the part of the man-stealers and their patrons, the bunihahs of Zanzibar.

As things have turned out, one cannot help regretting that STANLEY did not return home with his deliverer. He could have prepared for publication the records of his travels, a more valuable contribution to geographical knowledge than any he was likely to make by the additional journey he had projected and in which he perished. Regret on the subject is the more natural and legitimate, as even when the great explorer was setting out for the purpose, as he hoped, of finding the river Lualaba to be identical with the Nile, it was already known in Europe, through the travels of Dr. SCHWEINFURTH, that there could be no connection between the two streams.

Among the papers of LIVINGSTONE brought to the coast with his remains are several letters for Mr. STANLEY, which have been placed in charge of the American Consul, Mr. WEBB, a fact which reminds us that certain American newspaper men are silly enough to profess doubt whether or no STANLEY ever found LIVINGSTONE.

THE leading Eastern papers take quite an encouraging view of the future of business, based on the comparative statistics of our foreign commerce for the years 1872 and 1873. Our total exports, exclusive of specie, for last year, amounted, in round numbers, to $550,000,000, an increase of more than $398,000,000 on the previous year. Our specie exports last year were $56,000,000, a reduction of $36,000,000 as compared with 1872. The import trade also exhibits satisfactory results, amounting last year to $595,000,000, or $60,000,000 less than in 1872. Certainly these figures show a satisfactory state of affairs in our foreign trade, besides establishing the important fact that we are now selling more than we buy. Not the least noteworthy feature of these statistics is the evidence they afford respecting our largely increased exports of iron and steel. The value of agricultural implements exported in 1872, was $1,765,178, and in 1873, $2,513,982. The exports of iron and its manufactures increased from $7,805,502 in 1872 to $9,406,941 in 1873. The value of pig iron exported in 1872 was $72,818; last year it rose to $414,349, an increase of nearly six-fold. Germane to this subject, is the fact that the latest returns of the British Board of Trade show a very serious decline in the exports of iron from that country. The exports fell off from 3,382,672 tons in 1872 to 2,959,315 tons in 1873, while the quantity exported during January and February of the present year amounted to only 501,328 tons, against 422,256 tons for the corresponding period of 1873. This is principally due to the falling off in our own requirements. All the signs of the times indicate that the time for building up a prosperous export trade in American iron and iron manufactures, is near at hand.

ONE of the ablest tariff speeches ever delivered in Congress, was that of Hon. MOSES W. FIELD, Representative from Michigan, to which reference was recently made in these columns. The arguments are not only forcible but very strongly presented, and they are backed up by a mass of statistics which exhibit great care and research, as well as a thorough knowledge of the subject, in all its branches and bearings. His pointedness of manner and aptness of illustration, are forcibly shown in the following extract, taken from that part of the speech in which he elaborates the idea that the permanent success of one industry is only assured by the prosperity of all, and that the efforts of those concerned in one branch to assail and injure another, are supremely mean and selfish.

"I have, Mr. Speaker, some fine Essex pigs on my farm; they are undoubtedly as well-bred as pigs can be, but I have often seen one pig try to root another out of the trough. So it is with the consumers of leather, and the consumers of steel, in fighting the leather and steel manufacturers of the United States. They display a disposition of hoggish meanness, only deserving the contempt and disgust of all fair-minded men. The New England shoemakers have enjoyed the blessing of protection for more than half a century. If all manufacturing industries shall continue to be protected in this country for half that time, we shall see a greater number of industries established on the fertile prairies of the West than we now find in operation on the sterile rocks of New England; for 'westward the course of empire takes its way;' and the industries, the graceful companions of our civilization, are now taking their congenial and profitable places in all the villages and cities of the West."

THE movement of grain during the past winter has been much larger than during the winter previous. Up to last Saturday the receipts since the first of January, at the five lake ports of Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland, were 27,696,000 bushels, against 21,879,000 bushels during the same period last year; and of flour, 1,515,000 barrels, against 932,000 barrels for the same time last year. The receipts of wheat were nearly three times greater than last year, the proportion being 15,751,000 bushels this year, against 5,988,000 bushels for the corresponding period last year. The quantity of grain in store at Chicago at the date in question was reported at 7,439,000 bushels, against 10,760,000 bushels last year; and at Milwaukee 2,426,000 bushels against 2,402,000 bushels last year. Europe will require every bushel of wheat we can get to the seaboard from this until October next, and probably longer, for the harvests in England and on the Continent must be largely above the average to cause any important reduction in the demand. A marked revival of business activity may therefore be reasonably looked for on the resumption of inland navigation. There are funds enough lying idle in the banks to move all the surplus breadstuffs of the West, and the circulation of the money required to pay the farmer for his produce, and the various forwarding interests, will naturally be felt in almost every branch of trade.

HENRI ROCHEFORT, the notorious journalist, whose escape from the French penal colony of Nouvelle-Caledonie was, a few days ago, telegraphed from Australia, had barely arrived at the colony. Late French papers contain a letter from the colony, written in January, which mentions ROCHEFORT's arrival in good health. On the voyage he had, it seems, suffered terribly from sea-sickness. On the day after the ship got into port, the journalist, with twenty-eight men and eight women sentenced to the same punishment, were taken into the peninsula of Ducos, a strongly fortified enclosure, where the worst of the convicts are detained. It will be interesting to learn how the escape was effected. In the meantime there is not much risk of mistake in the assumption that it was connived at by the officials; in other words, that ROCHEFORT got away because there was no strong desire to detain him. Before he sailed from France powerful influence was exerted in his favor, and but for the bad example he would certainly have been permitted to spend the period of his imprisonment in his native land. Be this as it may, he will make much of his adventures, and possibly congratulate himself on the luck which made him a convict. And yet with all his wit, such as it is, a more nauseous impostor never led others into mischief which he had not courage to do himself. No Communist sentenced to death or banishment by the French courts better deserved the punishment assigned than ROCHEFORT.

WHILE the new Homestead law, passed by the House of Representatives, is admitted to be, in some respects, a good law, it is sharply criticised on account of defects. Under it, government land which has at any time been offered for sale by auction, and, failing to bring the lowest price set upon it beforehand, has remained unsold, can now be bought by any one disposed to pay for it that lowest price. There are forty-six millions of acres of this public land in the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas. In order to rescue this land from the grasp of speculators, it was placed by the law of 1866 in the same category with land never yet offered for sale. This was done to bring it under the regulation of the Homestead law, and thus reserve if for actual settlers. But by the late Homestead law the law of 1866 has been repealed, and consequently land speculators can now buy up the land referred to *ad libitum*. For the ridiculous price of $1.25 an acre, or for $2.50 if the land lies near a railroad, jobbers can possess themselves of any quantity of it and completely exclude the class who buy for present cultivation and use. Doubtless the land-jobbers have had a hand in the creation of this fine opportunity, and we may trust that the Senate will disappoint their hopes when it comes to pass upon the act of the House of Representatives.

WE OBSERVE that an effort is making in Congress to introduce a bill authorizing the United States and European Steamship Navigation Company to construct fifteen iron steamships, of not less than three thousand tons registry each. They ask the government to indorse $10,000,000 of its bonds for twenty years at six per cent.; $800,000 for each of the first five, $700,000 for each of the second five, and $500,000 for the third five of said ships, to be paid in instalments as the work progresses. The scheme is entitled to no consideration whatever. There is a big grab in the belly of it. A bill is also pending before the Naval Committee, authorizing the construction of two iron shipbuilding yards or docks, one to be located on the Atlantic coast, under the supervision of the International Steamship Company, and the other in the Mississippi Valley, governed by the Western Iron Boatbuilding Company. It is asked that the United States guarantee the bonds issued by the companies in aid of the work, they in return making all repairs on naval vessels necessary at cost price. This, too, has the unmistakable odor of a job, and should be defeated—on the ground that it will improperly interfere with and retard the development of private enterprise in the same direction, if for no other reason.

THE Senatorial contest in Massachusetts is becoming tedious. Two fit men are in nomination, and the union of the Republican members upon either of them would give him a triumphant election, due to the party as a whole, and enabling the new Senator to take his seat not as indebted to, or the peculiar representative of any fa